

NITI Aayog and Indian Railways, along with the draft Request for Qualification and draft Concession Agreement, for seeking comments from stake holders. A Group of Secretaries (GoS) has been constituted with a term of one year, *inter-alia*, to advise on the terms and conditions for operation of trains by private operators over Indian Railways network. The contours of the project and the timelines for launching of trains services by private operators are under finalisation.

As far as goods trains are concerned, at present, Container trains are being operated by licensed Private Container Operators under the policy adopted in 2006.

Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor

*167. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is developing Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of proposed developmental activities;
- (c) the role of State and Central Governments in development of this Industrial Corridor; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated for development of this corridor along with the amount released and spent till date?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) is being developed as phase I of East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC). Asian Development Bank (ADB) had prepared Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) for VCIC and identified four nodes namely, Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Donakonda and Chittoor of Andhra Pradesh for development. Amongst these, two nodes namely, Visakhapatnam and Chittoor have been prioritized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) for master planning. ADB had prepared and submitted Comprehensive integrated master plan for these two nodes. GoAP has requested to include Visakhapatnam and Chittoor nodes under the purview of National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) in order to leverage financial resources and benefit from the experience and expertise of planning and developing of industrial corridors in India. The proposal of GoAP was deliberated in 4th meeting of Board of Trustees of NICDIT held on 30th August, 2019 and Board of Trustees have accorded approval for initiating the project development

activities like detailed master planning and preliminary engineering for the above two prioritized nodes. GoAP has been requested to provide details related to availability of contiguous land parcels, land already in their possession which can be readily transferred to the proposed SPV for the prioritized nodes. The response of GoAP is still awaited.

(c) As per the Institutional and Financial structure approved by the Government of India (GoI) for implementation of Industrial Corridor projects; State Governments contribute equity in the form of land and GoI through NICDIT provides funding support after approval/appraisal by CCEA as matching equity for development of trunk infrastructure components in identified nodes on completion of detailed master planning and detailed preliminary engineering. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is formed as 50:50 joint venture partnership between the State Government and NICDIT.

(d) The cost estimates for various infrastructure components along with the equity/debt contribution from GoI can only be ascertained on the completion of detailed master planning and preliminary engineering. The same has not been completed in respect of VCIC as yet. Therefore, no fund has been released for this corridor.

Sale and control of alcohol and narcotic substances in scheduled areas

*168. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the responsibility of sale and control of alcohol and narcotic substances in Scheduled Areas under the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) has been handed over to local Panchayats and Gram Sabhas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this provision is yet to be implemented in the State of Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the details of the steps taken by Government to implement the provision in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) 'Panchayat', being "Local Government", is a State subject and part of State list of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Mandate for setting up of Panchayats is provided by Article 243 in Part IX of the Constitution of India. As per the Section