

Inland Waterways Transport

1909. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether inland water transport is an economical, fuel efficient and environment friendly mode of transport;

(b) whether three national waterways, namely, the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal can provide efficient navigation facilities in the country;

(c) if so, whether Government intend to use these waterways as a mode of transport; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The three National Waterways when fully developed with infrastructure facilities namely fairway, terminals and navigational aids and when there are efficient inland vessels operators, can provide effective and efficient inland navigation for transportation in the country.

(c) and (d) These infrastructure facilities are being provided on the three National Waterways by Inland Waterways Authority of India and various projects in this regard have been completed or are under implementation or are planned. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is an organization under the Govt, for commercial operation of inland vessels. An Inland Water Transport policy has been approved by the Government with a view to facilitating accelerated development of this mode and to encourage private sector participation for creation of infrastructure and ownership and operation of Inland vessels. This policy includes several fiscal incentives to encourage participation of private sector in this process.

Development of Cochin Port

1910. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state the steps taken during the last three years to develop the Cochin Port ?