

(c) As per the policy of the Govt. of India, the entire automated telegraph net-work will be made bilingual. The required equipment had already been developed and tested. Bulk procurement for implementation in the network is under process.

[English]

#### **International Steamer Route in Sunderbans**

4704. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International steamer route in Sunderbans is currently used by cargo vessels plying between Calcutta and Assam/Bangladesh;

(b) whether a proposal was mooted to declare and develop this route as National Waterways;

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(d) whether there is any scope for private (overseas) investment for this project to be run on toll; and

(e) if so, whether the Centre would pose this project to any of the overseas funding agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is one of the identified waterways that can be declared as a National Waterway by an Act of Parliament.

(c) The proposal to declare international steamer route in Sunderbans from Rangafala Channel to Beharikhall-Raimangal river confluence on the inter-national border as a National Waterways was being considered. The environmental study in this route has been completed. However, MOEF as well as the concerned State Government have suggested alternate routes for this National Waterway. Accordingly, a detailed hydrographic survey is being taken up.

(b) Assessment of this has not been done yet.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **World Bank Loan to NTPC**

4705. SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank provides loan to National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of the loans provided by the World Bank to National Thermal Power Corporation during the last three years;

(c) whether an inspection team of the World Bank has recently visited National Thermal Power Corporation complexes and taken a decision to delay the loan to NTPC;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the extent to which the NTPC projects have been adversely affected due to this decision from World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The World Bank has not provided any fresh loan to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) during the last three years. The last loan approved by the World Bank for NTPC was in the year 1993-94 for an amount of US\$ 400 million under time-slice concept. The drawal of World Bank loan by NTPC during the last three years is as under:

Year	US\$ Million
1995-96	74.46
1996-97	108.34
1997-98	140.86

(c) to (e): The Inspection Panel of the World Bank has visited the Singrauli area in July, 1997 and after investigation has submitted its report. The Government has not received any decision to the effect that loan to NTPC is being delayed.

[Translation]

#### **Chartered Accountancy Examination**

4706. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for rechecking received by the institution after the declaration of results of Chartered Accountancy examinations;

(b) the number of the persons declared successful after rechecking and the type of discrepancies found therein; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid such discrepancies in future?