

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2854
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT POLICY
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to formulate Inland Water Transport Policy ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the policy is likely to be formulated?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir. It has already been forwarded.

(b) The policy envisages empowering Inland Waterways Authority of India(IWAI) to raise Tax-free bonds to borrow from the market as provided for in other infrastructure sectors, enlarging the role of IWAI to enter into commercial/joint ventures to encourage investment in this sector subject to financial exposure of the Government being limited to equity participation, policy guidelines for private sector participation subject to the actual capital subsidy with a ceiling of 40% for BOT project being worked out on case-to-case basis, grant of 100% tax exemption to be given to investors for five years and 30% in the next five years to be availed of within a period of 20 years as in the case of national highways, the rate of depreciation for all vessels ordinarily operating on Inland Waterways to be fixed at 20% to bring them on a par with ocean going vessel, introduction of vessel building subsidy of 30% for inland water vessels built in Indian Shipyards and discontinuation of the present Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme and levying minimum customs duty on imported equipment and machinery for the development of Inland Waterways by Inland Waterways Authority of India.

(c) Does not arise.