

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1010
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005
FDI IN INLAND WATER TRANSPORT SECTOR
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allow 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment in Inland Water Transport sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a scheme for waterway development and maintenance of each national waterway has been prepared;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the initiatives taken for popularise Inland water transport?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in inland water transport infrastructure is already permitted.

(c) & (d) Various projects for development and maintenance of basic Inland Water Transport infrastructure on three national waterways have been prepared and are being implemented in a phased manner. These include projects for fairway development and maintenance, fortnightly thalweg surveys and issue of river notices, providing pilotage services, day navigational marks for round the year operation, night navigation facility in phased manner, floating or permanent terminal facilities at various locations, facilities for mechanized handling of cargo, acquisition of vessels for demonstration of navigability of waterway and cargo movement etc.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Interactive seminars/ workshops have been organized from time to time at various places namely, New Delhi, Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Kochi. These were well attended by various stakeholders of Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector such as, potential cargo owners, IWT operators, ship builders, banks and financial institutions, representatives of State Governments, Chambers of Commerce etc. Voyages of cargo vessels are also made to demonstrate navigability of waterway and cargo transportation viability. On national waterway No. 1, fixed schedule services with fortnightly frequencies between Haldia-Patna is on since January 2004. Further, to encourage State Governments to develop inland waterways infrastructure, 100% grant to North-Eastern states and 90% grant to other states is provided under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.