

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3007

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005

UPLIFTMENT OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN COASTAL DISTRICTS

Appadurai Shri M.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to uplift Coastal Communities in the Coastal Districts of Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the system evolved for the purpose?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) While granting the environmental clearance for the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project (SSCP), among others, one of the specific conditions stipulated by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) is to make adequate arrangements to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the coastal communities including fishermen with appropriate budgetary provisions in the project cost. Accordingly, it has been decided that M/s Sethusamudram Corporation Limited (SCL) would assist in development of a multipurpose integrated minor port facility at Rameshwaram for handling cargo as well as fishing vessels and three fishing harbours at Nagapattinam, Thanjavur and Ramanathapuram districts. As a part of complying with the condition laid down by the MoEF, M/s Sethusamudram Corporation Limited (SCL) has taken steps to finalize a `Coastal Community Development programme`. For this purpose, some Non-Government Organizations, who are engaged in community services and are having selfhelp groups are being identified to impart vocational training and alternative livelihood training to the people living in six coastal districts of SSCP area in order to uplift their economic status. For implementation of this programme, one lead partner having credible experience in the field has been identified for coordinating with SCL for successful implementation of the programme. It is planned to implement this programme initially for a period of 3 months on a trial basis, whereafter the programme will be reviewed for increasing its scope, coverage and effectiveness.