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Title: Regarding proposed inland water transport project between Thane, Kalyan and Vasai -laid.

**DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN):** The 50 KM long proposed inland water transport project between Thane, Kalyan and Vasai is a very crucial project for my Kalyan constituency. My constituency depends either on railways or on roads to commute to the other parts of Mumbai, Thane and its suburbs. With increased urbanization and rising pollution levels; need for an alternative mode of transport has always been felt, however, any concrete effort was not made earlier in this regard. So when the former Shipping Minister sanctioned Rs. 650 Crores for the first phase of this waterways Project; it was greatly welcomed by all. We have had several rounds of consultations in the matter, the DPR was approved; and this project was due to be started in the month of March itself. Even a Bhoomi-Pujan Ceremony was also planned; however, due to Lok Sabha elections around the corner, it couldn't be organized by the preceding government. So, after formation of the new government, we again apprised our new MOS about the matter. An assurance to clear the budget for pre-investment activity was given by the Hon'ble MOS in June this year itself and the Hon'ble MOS had advised officials to start work on the first phase in the next three months. The Thane Municipal Corporation had proposed this water transport project in two phases. Phase 1 was to connect Vasai-Thane-Kalyan while Phase 2 was to connect Thane-Navi Mumbai. In fact, the DPR of the second phase was to be completed by October or November this year however; work on the 1st phase itself

hasn't been initiated as yet. Hence; I request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly expedite work on this project.