

(e) whether India expressed its views on China's recent underground nuclear test and on French decision to resume nuclear tests during the conference; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d). The Conference on Disarmament (CD) at Geneva is the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament issues. In January, 1994, an Ad hoc Committee was established to negotiate a CTBT. India has been actively participating in the ongoing negotiations. India has consistently maintained the CTBT should be comprehensive, universal, non-discriminatory and effectively verifiable.

(e) and (f) In a statement issued on 30 June 1995, the group of non-aligned members of the CD, called the G-21, of which India is a member, expressed its extreme disappointment on these developments and, inter-alia, urged the nuclear weapon states to observe a moratorium on nuclear testing during the CTBT negotiations and until the entry of the CTBT.

#### **Inland water Transport Facility**

2405. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in regard to linking of Kakinada with Madras through Buckingham Canal in order to improve inland water transport facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given its approval to the project;

(c) if not, the time by which the project is likely to be cleared;

(d) the estimated cost of the project; and

(e) the financial assistance likely to be provided by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the improvement of Buckingham Canal, Commamur Canal, Eluri Canal and Kakinada Canal, was submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1988. The matter was examined in consultation with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Ultimately, it was decided by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWI) to carry out the techno-economic feasibility study on the entire canal system connecting Kakinada and Madras which includes Kakinada, Eluru, Commamuru and the Buckingham Canal. The field study had already been completed and the IWI's Consultants, RITES have since submitted the draft report.

A decision on the development of this canal system, estimated cost of the project and the financial assistance to be provided by the Government, would depend on the findings of the techno-economic feasibility study.

#### **Dredgers at Ports**

2406. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Beypore port in Calicut and the major port at Cochin have dredgers;

(b) if so, whether these dredgers are being used to their full capacity; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The Beypore port in Calicut being a minor port is under the control of the Government of Kerala. The major port at Cochin has two dredgers.

(b) and (c) Dredger 'Nehru Shatabdi' being a new Dredger is being utilised to its full capacity in 2 shifts of 12 hours each, whereas the other dredger 'Bolghatty' being old is utilised to its full possible capacity in one shift of 8 hours.

#### **Urban Micro Enterprises Scheme**

2407. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of targets fixed under the scheme for Urban Micro Enterprises during each of the last three years State-wise; and

(b) the number of beneficiaries and the amount released to them during the corresponding period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) The details are given in statement-I attached.

(b) The details are given in statement-II attached.