

(iii) Delhi-Madras 1987-88.

Improvement of dry docks

5338. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned funds for the improvement of dry docks in ports;

(b) if so, the name of the ports where such improvement programme is expected to be taken up; and

(c) when that programme is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No. However Government is considering various proposals on the basis of the 15-Year Perspective Plan for Ship-repair.

(b) :

Phase I

(i) Augmentation proposals for ship-repair facilities including Docks in Calcutta Port;

(ii) Augmentation proposals of ship-repair facilities including Dry Dock in Bombay Port.

Phase II

(i) Augmentation proposals in Mormugao Port.

(ii) Augmentation proposals in Vizag Port.

(c) The programme for Calcutta and Bombay Ports is being taken up in Sixth Five Year Plan. For others, the main work is expected to be taken up in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Suggestion made by President of the Convention on the law of the sea

5339. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Tommy Koh of Singapore, President of the Convention on the Law of the Sea

held recently at Jamaica, has suggested that the USA be excluded from future talks to resolve conflicting mining claim; and

(b) if so, the attitude of the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) We are not aware of any statement made by Mr. Tommy Koh, President of the Conference on the Law of the Sea, suggesting that USA be excluded from future talks to resolve conflicting mining claims. In fact such claims have to be resolved by pioneer investors, who have signed the convention, among themselves. The procedures for such resolution, and the legal considerations applicable in this regard, have been indicated in the Resolution on Pioneer Activities adopted by the Conference. After the Convention has entered into force, the International Seabed Authority will consider the applications for deep sea-bed mining in the order in which they are received and will not consider any later application where its area overlaps with another applicant.

President Koh, in his concluding statement at the Conference on December 10, 1982 in Jamaica, stated as follows:-

"Any attempt by any State to mine the resources of the deep sea-bed outside the Convention will earn the universal condemnation of the international community and will incur grave political and legal consequences. All speakers have addressed an earnest appeal to the United States to reconsider its position".

(b) Does not arise.

Widening of national highway No. 34 between Beldanga and Sargachi Mahula
5341, SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the specification of width, side to side of the National Highways;

(b) the reasons as to why the width of a few kilometres of National Highway No. 34 between Beldanga and Sargachi-Mahula is so narrow which makes the