

NT>

Title: Need to accord sanction to the proposal of Cochin Port Trust Board for setting up transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam in Kerala.

SHRI GEORGE EDEN (ERNAKULAM): The setting up of a world class transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam is one of the most ambitious projects of Cochin Port Trust. A feasibility study was undertaken in 1990 and it was updated in 1998. The updated feasibility study on Vallarpadam recommended taking up the project in phases, the total cost being estimated to be Rs.1,875 crore. The Vallarpadam project will be helpful for new projects like Petronet Terminal at Puthu Vipeen and the deepened channel can be made use of by the L.N.G. project also. It will also give boost to value addition of industries in Kerala. The Port Trust Board had approved the proposal in its meeting held on 7.9.2000 and the proposal was forwarded to the Ministry of Shipping on September, 2000. But the project has still not taken off.

As a long outstanding major project to be implemented in the State of Kerala and that too very vital for the development of Cochin Port Trust, I request the Ministry of Shipping to consider all the above aspects and to take necessary steps to implement the project at the earliest.