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Title: Regarding merger of river division of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation with PSU.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY(BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Shipping to this issue of urgent public importance. You are well aware that the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is an age-old organization which operates in the stretches of National Waterway One and National Waterway Two under the Inland Water Transport Authority where the private sector is reluctant to venture into. However, it has been found that the Central Government is now going to divest the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation's River Division. The Raja Bagan Dockyard, which was earlier a component of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, has already been handed over to the Ministry of Defence and it has been performing well. I would urge upon the Ministry of Shipping that the River Division of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation should be merged with any organization which has a structural affinity to it, like Inland Water Transport Authority of India, like Calcutta Port Transport, or any other fraternal organization, so that it could survive. As for the potential of CIWA, it has more than 100 vessels.

It has expertise and a large pool of employees who have still left with the tenure of more than 10 to 20 years. In spite of huge potentialities in the Inland Water System in India, due attention and importance has not been paid as is evident that the modal share of inland water transport has been low. At present, only two per cent share it enjoys. The 11th Five Year Plan has proposed an increase of modal share of inland water transport to four per cent. In view of this fact, I think, the River Division of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation can play a very important role, if it is paid due attention. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister of Shipping to merge River Division of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation with any other fraternal organization.