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Title: Need to set up a Maritime University in Gujarat-Laid.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Gujarat State is having longest coastline of 1600 kms in which there is one major port and 40 minor ports. State of Gujarat handles 25% of the total cargo handled in India and Gujarat Ports except Kandla, handled 80% of the cargo of all minor ports. By end of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, it has a plan to achieve 450 million tons port capacity as per GOI overall plan of capacity increase. Nearly 6000 ships per year call on Gujarat Ports. The requirement of manpower is, therefore, very high.

With a view to make available marine manpower to be deployed in the Sector, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat had written a D.O. Letter dated 27.1.2004 to Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, GOI for establishment of Maritime Training Institute in Gujarat. The purpose of establishing of Maritime University is to impart education to the students willing to join maritime sector after graduate and post graduate levels as this University would cater to various courses in Port Management, Marine Engineering and Nautical Science. Government of Gujarat vide its letter dated 2.7.2006 had already approached The National Maritime Academy, Chennai for putting this item in the agenda of their Governing Body for establishment of a Maritime University in Gujarat. Till now, there is no progress in this regard.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to issue necessary directions to the concerned Department for clearing this proposal as immediately as possible.