

According to available information, project 2 to 6 had applied for foreign equity participation. However, information regarding participation of Non-resident Indian (NRI) in these projects is not available.

#### **Dredging Work on Various Ports**

1795. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dredging Corporation of India have the capacity to do the dredging works of various ports in the country; and

(b) if so, the total work done by the Corporation, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Dredging Corporation of India does not have adequate capacity to carry out maintenance dredging work of all the major ports in the country. The shortfall in capacity is met by the ports by carrying out dredging works through contracts.

(b) The maintenance dredging works done by Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. during 1997-98 at various major ports is as under:—

Ports	(In million cu. m.)
1. Calcutta	12.00
2. Paradeep	1.90
3. Visakhapatnam	0.52
4. New Mangalore	6.00
5. Mormugao	2.91
6. Jawaharlal Nehru	1.06
7. Kandla	3.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.06</b>

#### **Reduction in Intake Capacity**

1796. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has cut down intake capacity of Government Medical Colleges in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total reduction in the intake capacity;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has taken any steps to provide basic amenities as stipulated by the Medical Council of India in these colleges;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Medical Council of India propose to restore the original intake capacity in these medical colleges; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Various Medical colleges including Government Medical Colleges in Karnataka were admitting students as per the number fixed by the State Government through an executive order which were in excess than the admission capacity permitted by the Medical Council of India. The sanctioned intake by Medical Council of India and the number of students being admitted in Government Medical Colleges were as

under:—

	Name of the College	Sanctioned by the Council	Admitted by the College
1.	Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore	150	245
2.	Mysore Medical College, Mysore	100	205
3.	Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Bellary	100	140
4.	Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli	50	147
		400	737

The Medical Council of India in pursuance of the order dated 1.10.96 of High Court of Karnataka and on receipt of proposal from State Government for enhancement of seats in M.B.B.S. in Government Medical Colleges, inspected all the Government Medical Colleges with a view to determine the admission capacity. On inspection it was noted that while colleges at Bangalore and Mysore were having infrastructural facilities for 150 and 100 admissions respectively, the colleges at Bellary and Hubli were not having infrastructural facilities even for the intake permitted by the Medical Council of India. In view of gross infrastructural deficiencies in the colleges at Bellary and Hubli, Medical Council of India recommended to the Central Government that admissions in these colleges may be stopped with immediate effect unless the deficiencies are rectified and compliance report submitted. The deficiencies were brought to the notices of the State Government and on the basis of compliance report these medical colleges were allowed to continue with the intake fixed by the Medical Council of India i.e. 100 students at Bellary College and 50 students at Hubli College. Further, in view of the finding and recommendations of the Medical Council of India, no increase of seats was permitted over and above the intake already sanctioned by the Medical Council of India and proposals for enhancement of seats in all the above four colleges were disapproved.

(c) A total of 337 seats were reduced in four Government Medical Colleges for want of infrastructural facilities.

(d) to (g) There is no provision in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Regulations framed thereunder for restoration of intake once the intake is fixed by the Central Government on the recommendations of the Medical Council of India. Increase of seats is allowed on the basis of infrastructural facilities and as per the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act and Regulations framed thereunder. No fresh proposal has been received from the State Government for increase of seats in above college.

#### Sethusamudram Project

1797. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN:  
SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to execute Sethusamudram Project on the lines of the Konkan Railway;

(b) if so, the options being considered by the Government in this regard; and