3859. SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the expected benefits and outcomes of the NMHC project for preserving, showcasing and promoting India’s maritime heritage, culture and history; and

(b) the future plans of the Ministry to develop more maritime heritage sites and museums in India?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) NMHC at Lothal will be an integrated world class and engaging maritime destination that will celebrate the rich heritage of the country. It will allow visitors to experience the past and the present inspiring them to participate in India’s future maritime endeavours. The masterplan design enables the visitors to indulge in a holistic maritime experience involving education, entertainment and leisure at the National Maritime Heritage Complex. The maritime research institute in NMHC will encourage research in maritime history of the country. It will also establish international collaboration and exchange programs with international museums/universities. NMHC will be a new international destination for tourist at par with other renowned international museums of the world wherein a daily footfall of about 25,000 tourists is anticipated. This will help in developing the economy of the region and generate employment.

(b) Lothal is one of the prominent cities of the ancient Harappan civilisation. Here archaeological excavations have discovered the oldest manmade dockyard over 5000 years old. The Ministry desires to develop the maritime heritage site of Lothal.