

PRESS RELEASE

Meeting of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalithaa** with **Thiru Pon. Radhakrishnan**, Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping on 16.9.2016.

The Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Thiru Pon. Radhakrishnan called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalithaa in the Secretariat, Chennai on 16.9.2016. The Union Minister of State requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the State Government's support for the commencement of survey for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the development of a Major Port at Enayam (Colachel). The Union Minister of State indicated that the construction of the Port is at a place nearly 1 km away from Enayam and Enayam itself will not be affected by this construction. The Port will be built by reclaiming land from the sea and no existing habitation will be affected.

Hon'ble Chief Minister indicated that right from her first tenure as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu she had been keen on implementing the Colachel Port Project. The lack of support from successive Central Governments had meant that the project could not be implemented. The Hon'ble Chief Minister assured the Union Minister of State that the Government of Tamil Nadu is as keen on implementing the project as the Government of India and would provide all necessary support.

The Union Minister of State also sought the support of the Hon'ble Chief Minister for providing land to establish a Rubber Research Center in Kanniyakumari District. Hon'ble Chief Minister assured that the proposal would be expedited.

The Union Minister of State requested that the East Coast Road, south of Puducherry, may be handed over to the National Highways Authority of India for upgradation as a National Highway. Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that for stretches of roads already taken over as National Highways adequate maintenance funding from National Highways Authority of India should be ensured. Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that the Government of Tamil Nadu is already taking up the upgradation and improvement work in the Thoothukudi - Tiruchendur-Kanniyakumari stretch of the East Coast Road. Hon'ble Chief Minister further sought an assurance from the Union Minister of State that in

case the East Coast Road, south of Puducherry is taken over as a National Highways, adequate priority and funding should be accorded to ensure that the road is well maintained.

The Union Minister of State also sought the Hon'ble Chief Minister's continued support for all works relating to National Highways in the State of Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Chief Minister assured that all necessary support would continue to be provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Dr P Rama Mohana Rao, IAS., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, IAS., (Retd.) Adviser to Government, Thiru Rajeev Ranjan, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Highways and Minor Ports Department, Thiru K Shanmugam, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Thiru S Krishnan, IAS., Principal Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department and other officials were present.

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