



Union minister for urban development M. Venkaiah Naidu addresses a meeting on Inland waterways at a hotel in Vijayawada on Sunday. Union minister of state for road transport Ponnuru Radhakrishna (left) is also seen.

Waterway survey by March

DC CORRESPONDENT
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The chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India Amitabh Varma said that the survey for waterways project would be completed by March. Explaining the project progress to Union ministers M. Venkaiah Naidu and P. Radha Krishna and MPs from Andhra Pradesh, Amitabh Varma requested the state government to extend co-operation for initiating the project.

As many as 80 bridges of the total 181 and 18 locks of the total 41 locks should be removed from Kakinada to Pudhicherry water lane. The state government has proposed 1,000 tonne vessel capacity water transportation and it needs ₹3,000 crore budget, he added.

Infact, the survey was completed for 500 tonne vessel operation capacity. It was estimated at ₹1500 crore. He said that water transportation is four times cheaper than rail, road and other trans-

portation.

China had spent ₹78,000 crore and while Germany spent ₹90,000 crore for waterways project, he said, adding that India had allocated only ₹1,117 crore during the last five years.

The waterways project had huge importance in past but was stopped for various reasons. He said that now the Union government has proposed six corridors on a 4,382 km stretch. However, the project would be extended upto Bhadra-

chalam from Kakinada after the completion of the Polavaram project. The project is the only solution for increasing traffic and pollution, he added. He said that the tender process would be completed and work will be launched by September. Union minister Venkaiah Naidu said that Modi's government has given more priority to the waterways project. Union minister for state road transport P. Radha Krishna and others were present.