

Government to push steel sector to use inland waterways for logistics

Asks SAIL, Tata Steel to submit report on feasibility by Sept 21

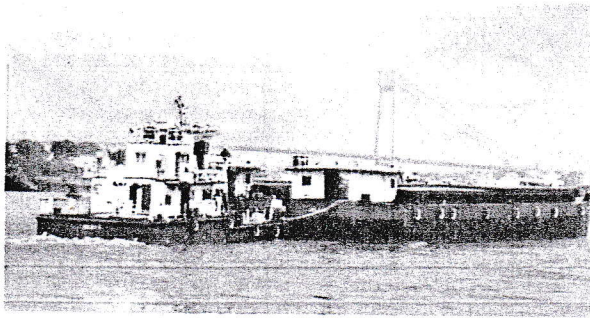
ABHISHEK LAW

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The Steel Ministry has asked at least two companies, — Tata Steel in the private sector, and the state-owned SAIL — to explore the feasibility of using waterways for transportation of material.

As per the minutes of the meeting held in August-end, "SAIL and Tata Steel (are) to submit a note with specific actionable points" on "using waterways for logistics purpose in the steel sector".

BusinessLine has reviewed a copy of the minutes of the meeting between the Ministry officials and industry stakeholders chaired by the Union Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia. In all likelihood, the



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note is expected to be ready by the next meeting scheduled on September 21, those aware said.

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Previous instances

Incidentally, Tata Steel has been one of the few compan-

ies to have used both the inland waterways and the Indo-Bangladesh protocol routes.

In a more recent move, the company is sending 25 mt of TMT bars to Silchar (Assam) from Kolkata using the Syama Prasad Mookerjee port to Chittagong port in Bangladesh; and then to Assam through the Sheola-

Sutarkhandi land customs station border points.

The move is expected to cut down transport time to N-E by nearly half. Between March and April, the steel-maker brought in heavy machinery for expansion at its Kalinganagar plant in Odisha.

Nearly 1,000 m³ of four super-over-dimensional-assembled-cargo (SODCs), each weighing up to 100 tonnes were shipped. These were part of its slag granulation plant that was being set up.

According to a previous statement from the company, its consignment sailed in a chartered vessel from Shanghai to Paradip port in Odisha where it was loaded onto a barge that travelled up the Luna river and then unloaded in Kendrapara, and then moved by road.