

JOINT VENTURE: Chief Minister Jayalalithaa inaugurating the Kattupalli port through video conferencing at the Secretariat on Wednesday. - PHOTO: DIPR

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on Wednesday inaugurated the Rs. 3,375-crore Kattupalli minor port-cum-shipyard through video conferencing.

A joint venture of Larsen and Toubro (L&T) and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), the minor port is spread over 1,143 acres in nearby Tiruvallur district and has a shipbuilding yard, the biggest in the country, stated an official release.

The port could handle big cargo ships, vessels carrying LNG and petroleum fuel and

also had fabrication facilities for shipbuilding.

While thanking the Chief Minister, company officials invited traders to make use of the facility that could be used an alternative to Ennore and Chennai ports.

While it might be too early to say when the next vessel would arrive, an official hoped that exim activities would pick up in the coming months.

Ennore Port officials have decided to convene a meeting of trade representatives within a fortnight to hear their grievances.

Incidentally, it would be the first meeting of the newly-

appointed Chairman-cum Managing Director M.A. Bhaskarachar.

Once again, port users have called for widening the North Chennai Thermal Power Station road as the Tiruvottiyur-Ponneri-Panchetti road was likely to become busy due to container traffic.