

[14 December, 2006]

RAJYASABHA

**Transit terminal at Vizhinjam**

2540. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest stance maintained by the Ministry of Defence in the matter of clearance for the Deep Water International Container Transit Terminal at Vizhinjam near Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) whether a controversy had developed regarding the Maritime Security of our country because of the involvement of a few Chinese Companies;

(c) whether the controversy has been settled now; and

(d) whether the border of Tamil Nadu lies very near the project site and whether that State would be consulted at every stage of the development?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) It will not be in public interest to disclose details.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Vizhinjam Port is a Non-Major port and the responsibility for its development vests with the State Government of Kerala.

**Agreement for Space Research**

2541. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:  
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has signed agreement with other countries in the field of space research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in the field of space research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India has signed MoUs