

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to seek assistance from private sector in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has decided to take steps for setting up of a new major port each in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) The management structure of the new major ports has not been finalised.

#### **Functioning of TTS**

1858. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tonnage Tax Scheme (TTS) introduced to help the Indian Maritime Sector as an alternative to regular Corporate Tax is working satisfactorily; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Tonnage Tax Scheme was introduced in 2004-05 for the Indian shipping industry to provide a level playing field in line with their global competitors. Under Tonnage Tax Scheme, income tax is levied on the basis of presumptive income of Net Tonnage (NT) of each ship owned/chartered by Indian ship owner(s) where income is determined according to fixed scale. The Tonnage Tax Scheme has reduced the burden of corporate tax on Indian shipping companies who opted for the scheme.

#### **Brahmaputra Waterways**

1859. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Brahmaputra waterways; and

(b) by when this project is likely to be operative?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The Dhubri to Sadiya stretch of River Brahmaputra of about 891 kms has been declared as National Waterway in the year 1988. The Inland Waterways Authority of India

(IWAI) is developing and maintaining various inland water transport infrastructure on this stretch which are namely:

- (i) Navigational channel with targeted depth and width in various stretches of the waterway;
- (ii) Navigational aids for day and night navigation; and
- (iii) Fixed and floating terminals at different locations to facilitate loading and unloading of cargo.

Different types of vessels are already plying on this waterway carrying cargo including over dimensional cargo. Besides, some inland cruise vessels carrying tourists also ply on the waterway from time to time.

#### **Utilisation of funds for port development projects**

†1860. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that an amount of Rs. 1,00,399 crore was allotted by Government for the ports development related schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) if not, the details of the amount;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that of the said amount could not be fully utilised during the period; and
- (d) if so, the amount actually utilised during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. An outlay of Rs. 17,551.24 crore was approved for Major Ports at the beginning of the 11th Five Year Plan. However, the year-wise outlay allocated for Major Ports during 11th Five Year Plan was only Rs. 7471.02 crore, which included Government Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs. 1025.69 crore only. The remaining Rs. 6445.33 crore was met by the Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources of the Ports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As against the year-wise allocated outlay of Rs. 7471.02 crore for Major Ports, the utilisation was Rs. 4919.44 crore which is about 65.85% of the allocation.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.