

(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