Joint venture port in collaboration with JNPT and MMB

2443. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint venture port in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) is being developed in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether there are severe concern of local people and fishermen against coming up of this port; and

(d) what are their concerns and what efforts are being made by Government to address their concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A shareholders agreement with the participation of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (74% shareholding) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (26% shareholding) has been signed on 14.04.2016 for development of new port at Vadhavan, Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) There is no requirement of land for development of the proposed new port at Vadhavan as it is to be established in the intertidal zone. Land is required only for Rail and Road connectivity. A meeting was convened by JNPT with representatives of local communities, Officials of Government of Maharashtra, Commissioner of Fisheries, Chief Executive Officer of Maharashtra Maritime Board and District Collector, Palghar to discuss and allay misconceptions pertaining to displacement of villagers, provision of livelihood (Fishing), acquisition of land and damage to environment.

Transportation of passengers and cargo

2444. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of roles played by the Indian Shipping Industry in the transportation of passengers and cargo;

(b) the details of initiatives taken by Government to develop this sector so far transportation of passengers is concerned; and

(c) the steps taken to recognize, reward and promote quality within the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Indian shipping lines transported 65.5 million tonnes EXIM cargo in 2014-15. In addition 105.8 lakhs and 90.6 lakh passengers embarked and disembarked respectively on Indian ports in 2014-15.

(b) To develop the transportation of passenger services, two main land vessels for Andaman and Nicobar Islands of 1200 passenger capacity each have been sanctioned during 2015-16. Besides this, two Inter Island ships for Andaman and Nicobar Islands of 500 passengers capacity have also been sanctioned.

(c) In order to provide support to the Indian Shipping Industry, Government has taken the following major steps, namely:-

- Indian Shipping industry has been provided cargo support through Right of First Refusal.
- Parity in taxation of seafarers employed on Indian flag ships *vis-a-vis* those on foreign flag ships.
- Exemption of Customs and Excise Duty leviable on bunker fuels used in Indian flag vessels for transportation of mix of EXIM, domestic and empty containers between two or more ports in India.
- Uniform abatement of service tax of 70% for transportation of goods by rail, road and sea vessels.
- Shipping enterprises based in India have been permitted to acquire ships abroad and also flag them in the country of their convenience.

Building a major harbour at Kulachal in Tamil Nadu

2445. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to build a major harbour at Kulachal in Tamil Nadu as a Government project;

(b) if so, how far it would affect the prospects of the Vizhinjam harbour, the work for which has already been started; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the smooth progress and functioning of Vizhinjam harbour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has accorded in-principle approval for setting up of Enayam Port in Tamil Nadu on 5th July, 2016. The proposed new major port will provide cargo throughput in addition to the handling at Vizhinjam Port.

(c) As Vizhinjam Port is a Non-Major Port, it is under the jurisdiction of Government of Kerala as per Section 3, Sub-section of Indian Port Act, 1908. The Government of India has accorded in-principle approval on 03.02.2015 for viability gap funding of ₹ 1646 crores to develop a deep water multipurpose greenfield port at Vizhinjam.