

- (a) whether Government has completed the dredging from Vijayawada to Muktyala portion of National Waterways No. 4 as per schedule;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has also completed the establishment of four floating terminals of National Waterways No. 4, including the one at Veadri and Amravati; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 62% of dredging in the stretch of NW-4 from Vijayawada to Muktyala in Krishna River has been completed and the balance work, depending on the requirement, is scheduled to be completed by March, 2020.

(c) and (d) Fabrication of three floating pontoons out of four floating pontoons at Durga Ghat, Bhavani Island, Amaravati and Veadri for NW-4 has been completed and fabrication of fourth pontoon is in progress.

**Proposal for equity in Kerala Waterways
and Infrastructure Limited**

1594. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for taking up 49 per cent equity in the Kerala Waterways and Infrastructure Limited, is still under consideration;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay in taking decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of IWT in Tamil Nadu

1595. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has proposed to develop Inland Water Transport (IWT) in Tamiraparani river in the State of Tamil Nadu;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has allocated any fund for this;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (e) Tamiraparani River from Sulochana Mudalir Bridge, Tirunel Valley to confluence with Bay of Bengal near Punnaikayal for a length of 62 km. in Tamil Nadu, was declared as National Waterway (NW)-99 by the National Waterways Act, 2016. Techno-economic feasibility of NW-99 has indicated that the waterway is not technically and commercially viable for development for shipping and navigation.

Increasing tonnage capacity of shipping industry

1596. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to increase the tonnage capacity of Indian shipping industry;
- (b) if so, the details of steps being taken; and
- (c) the tonnage capacity of the shipping industry in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) In order to increase tonnage capacity of Indian shipping industry, Government has taken a number of steps. These include (i) Providing Indian shipping industry cargo support through Right of First Refusal (ii) Reducing GST from 18% to 5% on bunker fuel used in Indian flag vessels (iii) Allowing carriage of coastal cargo from one Indian port to another Indian port *via* foreign ports in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh (iv) Removing licencing requirement for chartering of foreign registered ships by citizens of India, companies incorporated in India and Registered Societies to encourage coastal movement of agriculture and other commodities, fertilizer, EXIM Transshipment Containers and Empty containers (v) Bringing parity in the tax regime of Indian seafarers employed on Indian Hag ships *vis-a-vis* those on foreign flag ships (vi) Allowing shipping enterprises based in India to acquire ships abroad and flag them in the country of their convenience (vii) Allowing use of imported Containers for carrying of domestic cargo and allowing use