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[English]

**Hiring of Oil Tankers by Shipping Corporation of India**

2023. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached private sector shipping companies for hiring of oil tankers to replace the ageing fleet of oil tankers of the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details of the private sector shipping companies to whom the Government have approached;

(c) whether the private sector shipping companies have agreed for hiring of oil tankers; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have given permission to the following shipping companies to acquire oil tankers with the option to enter into suitable arrangement with the Shipping Corporation of India for employment of tanks on a charter-cum-demise basis;

1. M/s. Essar Shipping.

2. M/s. Reliance Industries.

3. M/s. India Steamship Company.

4. M/s. Century Shipping.

Out of the above four companies, two companies have responded with their bids to Shipping Corporation of India.

(d) Under the above arrangement, the vessels given to Shipping Corporation of India on charter-cum-demise will be treated as Shipping Corporation of India vessels for all intents and purposes and these will be deployed with Oil Coordination Committee (OOC) in lieu of Shipping Corporation of India tankers/OBOs.

**Committee on Revival of Sick Jute Industry**

2024. SHRID. VENKATESWARARAO:  
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a High Powered Committee to examine the revival of sick jute industry;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations and the action taken by the Government thereon so far; and

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). A statement is enclosed.

**STATEMENT**

Government had set up a High Powered Committee to study the current developments in the jute sector and recommend strategies and policy measures to increase modernisation, diversification and exports.

The Committee has submitted its report to Government on 11th November, 1992. The thrust of the recommendations of the High Powered Committee is that the future of the jute sector lies in the recognition of the full potential of jute as a fibre in diversified end applications. Technical advances and price factors render it impossible for the jute economy to sustain its existence on the production of packaging materials alone. It is, therefore, imperative for the jute sector to undertake restructuring in the interests of the jute growing farmers, mill workers and others associated with this fibre. Such diversification would help increase value realisation to the jute industry through production of intermediate raw materials like yarn and fabrics which would be utilised by the decentralised sectors for production of variegated products for diversified applications that would help generate employment. This would lead the renewed demand for jute fibre that would help farmers to realise more remunerative prices for their produce. The Committee has recommended support for diversification through margin money assistance and tie up arrangements in all allied fields viz; improvement in productivity and quality of raw jute, interface between entrepreneurs and R&D institutions on the one hand and financial institutions and marketing channels on the other for transfer of technology etc.

Action has already initiated for implemented of the recommendations of the Committee.

#### **Modernisation of Looms**

205. PROF. PREM DHUMAL:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide assistance for modernisation of looms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of such assistance given during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of units benefited thereto, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Under the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme (TMFS), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) provides modernisation assistance to weak but viable units as well as to healthy units through replacements renovation of equipment/machinery, upgradation of technology, improvement of product quality and enhancement of export capability. Modernisation of looms form part of modernisation scheme covering various sections (Such as spinning weaving and processing) of composite mills.

(c) and (d). No separate figures regarding the modernisation of looms is available. However, during the last three years modernisation assistance given to composite mills is given in the Statement - I below. During the same period, the number units benefited under the Scheme is given in the Statement -II below.