

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2308
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
BAN ON FOREIGN TANKERS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have banned all foreign flagged crude, petroleum products and chemical tankers older than 25 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for the same ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI)

(a)&(b) Yes Sir, the Government have decided to restrict the entry of single hull foreign oil tankers, which are older than 25 years, into the Indian waters from 1st September, 2003. A circular specifying the following detailed guide lines, to be adhered to by the oil tanker charterers and oil terminal operators while in-chartering of foreign flag oil tankers, has been issued on 11th June, 2003 by the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai:-

- i) Crude oil carriers with SBT/PL, below 25 years of age
- ii) All product tankers with SBT/PL below 25 years of age
- iii) Chemical tankers below 25 years of age
- iv) Gas tankers to fully comply with GC/IGC Code below 30 years of age
- v) All tankers must be classed with major IACS Society or the Indian Register of Shipping.
- vi) All tanker above 20 years must have at least CAP 2 rating (for hull, machinery and cargo equipment) from IACS.
- vii) Tanker charterers and Oil Terminals shall exercise due diligence in ensuring the quality of tankers in-chartered.

(c) The in-chartering of sub-standard oil tankers from other countries especially from European countries, where most of the single hull oil tankers above 25 years have been banned , for operating in Indian waters, has caused a potential threat to the marine environment from oil pollution. Therefore, with a view to prevent any possible hazards to the marine environment, the Maritime Administration has been compelled to issue these guide-lines as a precautionary measure. Owing to amendments to MARPOL 73/78 Convention (Regulation 13G) as approved by the International Maritime Organisation and the recent measures imposed by the European Union countries, world's most single hull tankers of 20,000 Deadweight (DWT) are to be phased out from 2003 onwards depending upon their age.