

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:234
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003
AMENDMENT OF PORT ACTS
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA;RAMESH CHAND TOMAR

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to amend the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 and Indian Ports Act, 1908 to minimise controls and provide autonomy to the corporatised ports in the country ;

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

(c) whether the Government has also decided to review the Babu Rajeev Committee recommendations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 234 TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER, 2003, ASKED BY DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR AND SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA REGARDING AMENDMENT OF PORT ACTS

(a) & (b): Government has introduced the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001 in the Lok Sabha on 31/8/2001, which seeks to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to enable the Government to corporatise the existing major ports. The Bill also seeks to make applicable certain provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908 to the corporatised major ports to facilitate their day-to-day functioning. The Bill after its introduction was referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism (now the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture). The Committee has since made its recommendations on the proposed amendments vide its Sixty Second Report, which was presented to Rajya Sabha on 19.2.2003 and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 19.2.2003. Government's views on the recommendations made by the Committee are under finalization. The prime objective of corporatization of Major Ports is to grant more operational autonomy to enable them to function in the present competitive environment.

(c) & (d): Indian Ports Association (IPA) has been asked to study the recommendations of the Babu Rajeev Committee and to come up with the items that need to be followed up and implemented.