

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2817
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010
MARITIME TRAINING
Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has vast potential in maritime training and provide seafarers to the world in good numbers;
- (b) if so, whether to exploit this potential by way of creating a vast talent pool of professionally qualified and technically trained maritime personnel with a view to earn in the global field as it has done in the IT sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): India has created a large talent pool of professionally qualified & technically trained maritime personnel. There are approximately 130000 Indian seafarers and about 50000 Indian seafarers are working on foreign flag vessels.

(c): India has been conducting formal training for merchant navy personnel since 1927. Given the rising world wide acceptance of Indian seafarers as being efficient and cost effective, the Government reshaped the marine training policy in 1997 and marine education, hitherto handled by Public Sector was opened to private investment. This forward looking policy has resulted in setting up of number of maritime training institutes in India. At present 127 maritime institutes are conducting various training courses, in the pre-sea and post sea courses in public and private sector. Further, the Government has established an Indian Maritime University by an Act of Parliament on 14/11/2008. The IMU shall focus on high end academic programmes in the maritime sector.

In the light of cyclic nature of shipping trade and industry, the Directorate periodically reviews the demand and supply of seafarers by taking into account, the current and future needs of the industry. The projection in the Baltic International Maritime Council (BIMCO)/ International Shipping Federation (ISE) update 2005 of the global shortage in man power was placed at around 27000 seafarers in the officers category in the year 2015. The report of the Committee on Promotion of Maritime Employment dated 7/3/2007 headed by the Director General of Shipping estimated that about 5386 officers have to be trained annually to retain Indian share of global seafarers employment market of 6% plus 20% of additional requirement. The present annual capacity of the officers is 6975 which is consistent with the demand estimated in the aforesaid report.