

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3021  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010  
MANPOWER IN SHIPPING INDUSTRY  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the shipping industry proposes to recruit women to meet the global demand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the need for manpower in the global fleet will rise from the present 1.7 per cent to a new high of 14 per cent in the next five years;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether the owners are seriously worried about the imbalance in the supply and demand of manpower in the industry; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): The Government as a policy encourages equal opportunities for women recruits. The shipping industry too encourages recruitment of women candidates to apply for various positions in the shipping industry. Number of women working in the shipping industry has not been estimated so far.

(c) & (d): According to a recent study, the global demand for seafarers is expected to increase from 1.1 million currently to 1.4 million by 2015. The current demand is for 5,50,000 Officers (2,70,000 nautical officers, 2,80,000 engineers) and approximately 6,00,000 Ratings. By 2015, the global demand for each is expected to increase by 20 percent, translating into 6,60,000 Officers and 7,20,000 Ratings.

(e) & (f): The Indian Shipping companies are facing shortage of officers, especially in the senior ranks. The reasons for shortage of manpower in the industry and reaction of the Government are as under:-

1. Indian officers prefer to work on foreign flag ships due to the income tax advantage.
2. The lack of adequate shipboard training facilities.

The steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove the shortage of trained man power in the Indian Maritime Industry are as follows:-

(i) Permission to foreign seafarers to be employed on Indian Flag Vessels is accorded by the Director General of Shipping, normally on a case to case basis.

(ii) Ban on approval of Pre – sea officers courses has been lifted in 12th December, 2006 with a view to increase the intake of cadets.

(iii) Vide Gazette Notification dated 12.12.2007 it has been prescribed that on completion of onboard training with a tonnage tax company and successful acquisition of a Certificate of Competency, the trainee officer shall be obliged to offer his first three years of service (after deducting leave periods) to the said tonnage tax company.

(iv) The Government has also devised new schemes to facilitate the ratings to become officers more quickly by reducing the sea time requirement.

(v) The Government regularly takes feedback/inputs from the Indian shipping industry and has introduced sector specific schemes for dredgers, offshore vessels, Near Coastal Voyages, etc.

(vi) Increase of training slots/berths is under active consideration of the Government.