

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5321
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2010
MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENTS
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has reviewed the working of various Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs) and more particularly MMDs at Chennai and Mumbai in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether most of Mercantile Marine Departments have not computerised their workings and the seafarers are made to wait for days to get their work done; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the union Government to simplify various functions of the MMDs in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): The Central Government periodically reviews the functioning of the Director General of Shipping, a subordinate office of the Ministry. The Directorate carries out these functions with the assistance from the field offices namely, Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) located at various port cities. The MMD's discharge the responsibility of Survey, ISM Audit and Certification work of ships, which have not been delegated to Classification Societies. Directorate has also delegated Survey and Certification of Indian Cargo Ships to 7 Classification Societies. The MMD also carryout Port State Control Inspection of foreign ships under the provisions of various IMO instruments in order to ensure that substandard foreign ships do not operate in Indian waters. The Director General of Shipping being the statutory authority, has to approve all statutory requirements/policy decisions and thus major statutory requirements/policy matters have to be referred by MMD's to the DG Shipping for a final decision/approval.

Several steps have been taken by the Directorate to streamline their services maritime and shipping sector. Regional MMDs are being reoriented to shift focus from the role of regulator to facilitator. Regional MMD offices at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Cochin and Kandla carry out these jobs effectively along with District level offices at Mangalore, Paradip, Haldia, Jamnagar, Goa, Tuticorin and Port Blair.

(c): The Computerization of MMDs is an ongoing process.

(d): The following steps have been initiated for streamlining the functioning of DG Shipping/ MMD in the recent years.

(i) Training and examination systems have been certified under ISO 9001

(ii) Delegation of survey and inspection of Indian ships on safety construction to the classification societies.

(iii) Modern technology has been introduced to advance efficiency. E-Governance has been implemented for all surveys and inspection and delivering e-services across the web. The first phase of e-Governance is already being implemented. Networking between Directorate General of Shipping and allied offices is being strengthened to provide quicker online services and facilitate accessing of online services to the public.