

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3147

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2009

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON SHIP RECYCLING

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to ratify/approve the recent International Maritime Organisation Convention on ship recycling;
- (b) if so, whether the ship breaking industry of the country has opposed some of the controversial clauses of the Convention, which may lead to the closure of the industry and requested the Union Government for renegotiation on the said clauses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the said draft was adopted without addressing the apprehensions raised by the ship breaking industry in India;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for the protection of ship breaking industry in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): The proposal of signing and ratification of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships is under consideration.

(b) & (c): Ship breaking industry had some apprehensions on the effect of Convention on ship recycling industry in India. India had taken up the relevant issues during the various meetings of Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) of International Maritime Organization (IMO) and at two National IMO workshops held at Mumbai and Alang. The ship recycling industry was consulted in a meeting held on 23rd April 2009 and the stand of the Government was decided based on consensus arrived at during that meeting.

(d) & (e): The fundamental apprehensions raised by the industry were deliberated, resolved and adhered to in the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC). The significant areas which were debated during the Conference and decision taken included the Ship Recycling Plan, receiving tankers for re-cycling with certification as safe-for-entry and safe-for-hot work, 'Beaching method' of ship recycling being followed in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan etc. India had proposed for inclusion of warships within the scope of the Convention. However, same was not agreed upon, on the pretext that, none of the IMO Conventions have the provision for warships and same can be included in the national legislation as deemed necessary.

(f): At present in India the ship breaking activity is regulated by the directives of the Honorable Supreme Court of India in their ruling in W.P. (Civil) No. 657 of 1995 vide Order dated 6th September, 2007. A draft Ship Recycling Code is being formulated by the Ministry of Steel, which takes into account of the following:-

- (i) the directions contained in the Honorable Supreme Court Order of 2007,
- (ii) the recommendations of Technical Experts Committee (set up by the Honorable Supreme Court), and ;
- (iii) the requirements of various stakeholders, which include the concerned Ministries/ Departments, Port authorities, Pollution Control Boards and Recycling Industry.