

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:728
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN MARITIME AREA
Tanwar Shri Ashok

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for technological developments in maritime area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has signed any technical agreements with other countries to improve the technology; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken against it?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): In order to meet the challenges emanating from intense global competition, advanced information & communication technology, technological changes in shipping and related sectors coupled with stiff demands from trade, Ministry of Shipping has been continuously engaged in designing and implementing various projects for modernizing the ports infrastructure with a view to improve the efficiency of the delivery system and enhancing the quality of service at par with international standards. The measures adopted for modernization of ports include the following:

Construction of new berths/terminals

Expansion/upgradation of existing berths

Installation of new and modern equipments

Mechanization of cargo handling operations

Various computer aided systems to encourage automation in port operation

Installation of Vessel Traffic Management Systems (VTMS) for smooth movement of vessels

Implementation of web-based Port Community System.

Also, in order to encourage indigenous ship design and research and development in shipping and shipbuilding sector, Ministry of Shipping has a scheme of grant-in-aid to educational and research institutions for carrying out Research & Development activities and conducting studies in ship building in areas such as developing basic design and test facilities, standardization of design to encourage series production for tugs, dredgers, offshore vessels etc.

(c): India has bilateral Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in Maritime Sector with some countries, namely, The Netherlands, South Africa, USA, Morocco, China, Iran, Singapore, Russian Federation, Turkey, Bulgaria, Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Finland and Poland. These Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding, inter-alia, include technological cooperation in the Maritime Sector.

(d): India has been constantly engaged with these countries for mutual cooperation and exchange of technical know-how in ship building and repair, ports and harbour infrastructure, marine equipment and offshore technologies, performance & productivity enhancement, human resources requirements and capacity building etc. with a view to developing maritime technology in the country.