

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2631
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2009
SHIP-BREAKING OF FOREIGN DEAD SHIPS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of foreign dead ships have been brought to the Indian ports for ship-breaking for the last few years;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken note of security and other hazards involved in this activity;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to frame rules for such activities so as to safeguard the national security and other aspects; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP)

(a) Based on the information received in the Ministry of Steel, it is stated that during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the number of foreign dead ships brought to the Indian ports for ship-breaking were 12, 6 and 6 respectively whereas the total number of ships permitted for beaching were 142, 140 and 267 respectively.

(b)to(e): As per the order of the Hon`ble Supreme Court of 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon`ble Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking including the need for safeguarding national security. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.