

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2579
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
SHORTFALL IN CARRIAGE OF CARGO CAPACITY
Patel Shri Bal Kumar

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortfall in the carriage of cargo capacity and carriage of Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant/Liquid Cargo carrier;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether foreign vessels are enjoying almost ninety percent of Indian cargo business;
- (d) whether a large number of Indian cargo vessels are also too old to carry dry cargo like iron ore which is a major component of Indian export;
- (e) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to procure more modern cargo vessels; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

- (a) & (b): There is no shortfall in the carriage of cargo capacity as about 134 Indian Registered tankers are under operation. Capacity is a relative term due to dynamic situation of trade, depending on size of cargo parcel, voyage/ employment period and market demand.
- (c): Yes, Madam.
- (d): Around 280 cargo vessels out of the total of 1,145 Indian flag vessels are of a vintage of 25 years or more.
- (e) & (f): Acquisition of tonnage is a commercial decision taken by the management of a shipping company based on economic viability of the assets.