

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2733  
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013  
AMENDMENT IN MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT  
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and ratify the maritime labour Convention, 2006 of the International Labour Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the convention aims to provide safe and secure work environment on ships, fair terms of employment, decent working and living conditions on board, medical care etc;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said convention is likely to come into force?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

- (a) Yes, Madam;
- (b) The amendment to Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was approved by the Government on 13.6.2013. This Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill 2013 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 19.8.2013. MLC 2006 is considered as the Bill of Rights for the seafarers across the world. Ratifying it will improve the working and living conditions of Indian seafarers and protect their employment rights. Besides, Indian ships will be able to possess Maritime Labour Compliance Certificates for plying in international waters and India will be able to inspect foreign vessels visiting Indian waters for possession of such certificates.
- (c) Yes, Madam;
- (d) The Convention provides for
  - (i) minimum requirements to work on a ship such as minimum age, medical certificate, training/qualification and employment through recruitment and placement service providers;
  - (ii) conditions of employment such as an employment agreement, guaranteeing decent on-board working and living conditions, to be signed by both the seafarer and the ship owner/his representative, monthly pay in full in accordance with the employment agreement and any applicable collective agreement;
  - (iii) specific requirements regarding accommodation, recreational facilities, food and catering like minimum room sizes, and satisfactory heating, ventilation, sanitary facilities, lighting and hospital accommodation; and
  - (iv) health protection, medical care, welfare and social security protection to be paid by the ship owner to repatriate a seafarer in case of illness, injury, shipwreck, insolvency, sale of ship and access to prompt medical care when on board and in port.
- (e) MLC 2006 came into force internationally on 20.8.2013, i.e. twelve months after it was ratified by at least 30 members with a total share in the world gross tonnage of ships of 33 per cent. As on date 47 countries with 76.2 percent of the world's gross tonnage of ships have ratified it.