

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2724  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009  
STRENGTHENING OF M.M.D  
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received suggestions/representations regarding the need to de-centralise the functions of Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) and empower Principal Officers of Mercantile Marine Department (MMD);
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen offices of MMD in various ports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): The Government has received a few representations to de-centralise various functions of Directorate General of Shipping and empower Principal Officers, MMDs. However, no specific representation has been received from the small entrepreneurs complaining about denial of permissions by the Principal Officer in absence of adequate delegation. The Principle Officers are empowered under the provisions of Merchant Shipping Act and Rules and through various notices and circulars issued by the Directorate.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Two new MMD districts have been created at Kandla and Kochi. New MMD offices have been opened in New Mangalore and Haldia. The Government is also taking all possible steps to fill up the vacancies in MMD offices and has initiated measures to selectively delegate the functions of the Headquarters to Mercantile Marine Departments. Most of the survey work has been entrusted to the Indian Registrar of shipping under Section 9 of the Merchant Shipping Act. The functions of the Government are now restricted to the audit of IRS while Port State Control Inspections and Flag Stage Inspection are being done by MMD surveyors. All efforts are being made to fill the existing vacancies in the MMDs to augment the manpower resources and e-Governance modules have been rolled out to streamline various statutory functions discharged by MMDs.