

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2729
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
INCREASE IN MERCHANDISE FLEET
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the size of Indian merchandise fleet vis-à-vis world merchandise fleet; and
(b) the steps taken by the Government to augment this fleet?

Answer

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

- (a): The size of Indian Merchandise fleet vis-à-vis World Merchandise fleet as on 1.7.2009 is as under:

Units	DWT (MMT)
World fleet	54602 1193.4
Indian fleet	938 15.630

- (b): The Government has been taking various steps from time to time for the growth of Indian tonnage. These include:-

The Government of India has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). It is a comprehensive programme aimed at various issues that need to be addressed to bring holistic growth in the Indian Shipping Industry. Under the NMDP, Shipping Corporation of India, only Public Sector Shipping Company is in the process of acquiring a total of 76 new vessels with a total outlay of Rs.15,000 crores, to be completed in phases till end 2011-12. Of these, 6 ships have already been delivered, orders have been placed for construction of 32 vessels and remaining 38 vessels are planned for acquisition during the remaining 11th Plan period.

The Government has introduced tonnage tax regime in India since the year 2004 by which the tax outgo for Indian Shipping companies has been brought in the line with International Standard. Further, the liberalized policy on ship acquisition has been introduced and acquisition of all types of ships has been brought under Open General License (OGL). Besides, 100% FDI has been permitted in ship acquisition and registration formalities of newly acquired ships have been simplified.