

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2745
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
HARBOUR TUGS ON CONTRACT BASIS
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the administration of Mumbai Port Trust has decided to commission four hired harbour Tugs on contract basis for the Port operations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said decisions has been opposed by the Labour Unions at Mumbai Port; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Madam. A proposal recommending hire of four harbour tugs is under consideration of the Board of trustees of the Mumbai Port Trust.
- (b): Mumbai Port has presently 6 harbour tugs. 4 tugs, 2 of 445 tonnes bollard pull and 2 of 32 tonnes bollard pull are owned and operated by the port. 2 tugs of 45 tonnes bollard pull are on hire. This hire agreement is in place since 1998. The present hire contract expires in October 2010. Thus, proposal under consideration is to go in for fresh hire arrangement for 2 tugs of 50 tonne bollard pull. Considering the development of New oct terminal to be operational by 2010 and other projects for deepening of harbour wall berths, second liquid terminal to be commissioned in 2011/2012, 2 more tugs of 50 tonne bollard pull are considered necessary. It is proposed to meet this additional requirement by hire of 2 more tugs.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The issue has been discussed with the three trade unions by the management of Mumbai Port Trust. During discussion, the unions have recorded their objections to the proposal on various grounds including the ground that private agencies should not be engaged in to wage work which is perennial nature. The views of the Union and that of Management alongwith the comparative costs and availability of tugs have been placed before the Board for consideration.