

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2764  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009  
SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER  
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Indian Maritime Industry is facing shortage of trained manpower;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove the shortage of trained manpower in the Indian Maritime Industry?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Indian National Shipowners' Association (INSA) has reported shortage of around 1000 officers. Though adequate training facilities exist in the country, there is still shortage of trained manpower in the Indian Maritime Industry as Indian officers prefer to work on foreign flag ships due to the income tax advantage.

(c): Government has taken the following steps:-

(i) Permission to foreign seafarers to be employed on Indian Flag Vessels was accorded by the Director General of Shipping vide DGS order No.5 of 2008 (No.MSL.24(1)/2008) dated 15th July, 2008.

(ii) Ban on approval of pre-sea officers courses has been lifted vide DGS Circular No.15 of 2008 dated 12th December, 2006, with a view to increase the intake of cadets.

(iii) Vide Gazette Notification dated 12.12.2007, it has been prescribed that on completion of onboard training with a tonnage tax company and successful acquisition of a Certificate of Competency, the trainee officer shall be obliged to offer his first three years of service (after deducting leave periods) to the said tonnage tax company.

(iv) The Directorate has also devised new schemes to facilitate the ratings to become officers quickly by reducing the sea time requirement, vide M S Notice No. 14 of 2007, M.S. Notice No. 7 of 2007 and M.S. Notice No.19 & 20 of 2008.