

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:589
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009
ANNUAL PASSENGER SURVEY
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of days for each of the ships technically managed by the Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI) meant for Andaman-Mainland Sector remained on Annual Passenger Survey during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the maximum permissible period for any such vessel to remain in Annual Passenger Survey; and
- (c) the expenditure incurred on Annual Passenger Survey of each vessel by the SCI on ships meant for Andaman-Mainland Sector during the said period, year-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (c): The information is at Annexure.

(b): There is no maximum permissible time limit prescribed as per prevailing Statutory Administration and Class Regulations. The vessels are laid up for Annual Passenger Survey (APS) on expiry of their 'A' Certificate as required by regulations and their period of repairs and surveys depends on various aspects a few of which are given below:-

(i) Non availability of a suitable Dry-Dock at the required instance – in certain cases, the Mainland-Island big sized vessels have to be dry docked either at Mainland or Colombo at the closest possible places. Due to limited number of dry-dock facilities, these always remain heavily booked and the ships have to wait for their turn. With due permission from Statutory Authorities i.e. Directorate General of Shipping, at times, SCI have to skip the dry-docking and do repairs afloat so as to make the vessel available for operations.

(ii) Scope of repair work and surveys due at the time of APS –except M.V. Swaraj Dweep, all of the vessels are comparatively very old in age which results in increased repair due to various survey recommendations and extended time periods.

(iii) Delay in procurement of spare parts – many of the ships machineries are old and outdated which results in innumerable difficulties and delays experienced while procuring the required spares. Despite all constraints, maximum efforts are always put in by SCI to complete the APS of vessels as early as possible so as to restore the essential passenger services which otherwise get interrupted while the vessel is under APS.