

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2028
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014
MALPRACTICES
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of shipping companies, registered under Government of India all over the country;
- (b) whether the instance of malpractices/illegal trading by some companies has been reported to the Government;
- (c) if so, the number of cases registered in last three years; and
- (d) the action taken against such companies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a): The shipping companies are registered with the Registrar of Companies as per the Companies Act, 1956. As per the information available, a total of 336 shipping companies own ships registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

(b)to(d): This Ministry has received complaints from the exporters/ importers/trading associations regarding alleged exorbitant charges levied by the freight forwarders, damages caused to the goods on transit, insurance claims, abusive malpractices on part of shipping agents and freight forwarders.

Selection of freight forwarders and the rates to be charged by such services providers etc. are based on formal/informal agreement between two private entities i.e. shippers (exporters/importers) and service providers (freight forwarders) etc. and thus this Ministry has no role in these matters.