

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4250

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014

SHORTAGE OF SEAFARERS

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether public and private ship owners are handing over the command of merchant vessels to less experienced captains and chief engineers due to shortage of skilled seafarers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the effect on maintenance costs of vessels and their safety;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that most Indian seafarers prefer working on foreign vessels for better pay and benefits; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Government proposes to solve the shortage of seafarers in the Indian shipping industry?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): No, Madam. The requirement for the qualification, training and experience of masters and other officers on a merchant ship is governed by the International Convention on Standards and Training, Certification and Watch keeping of seafarers (STCW) and the rules framed thereunder. The compliance is verified through the Flag State Implementation inspection by surveyors of the Directorate General of Shipping.

(c)&(d): The preference of Indian seafarers to choose between Indian flag vessels or foreign flag vessels is driven by various considerations including tax liabilities. Presently, there is no shortage of seafarers in the Indian shipping industry.