

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether there is any proposal for introduction of speedier vessels between Cochin and Kaurati (Lakshadweep)?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of bunker fuel, which constitutes a major operating cost of ships, has shot up substantially since 2.8.1990 with consequential downward effect on earnings of Indian Shipowners. The Gulf crisis has also increased the insurance costs for trade in that area. The embargo on trade with Iraq and Kuwait and the down trend in international freight markets has also affected Indian Shipping adversely.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal at present before the Government for starting ferry service between Daman-Diu and Bombay-Mangalore. Government have accorded approval to M/s. Satyagiri Shipping Company Ltd. (SSCL) and M/s. Link-on Sea Link Pvt. Ltd. (LSPL) to acquire vessels for operating Passenger Service from Bombay to Goa. Satyagiri Shipping Company Ltd. have indicated that they would start the Passenger Service as soon as they obtain possession of the vessel. It is likely that this may take about 12 months.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

National Shipping Policy

1339. SHRI MOHANBHAI SANJIBHAI DELKAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of registered shipping companies and the number of companies out of them that are earning profits;

(b) the total accumulated losses, if any, of the shipping companies as per the latest figures available;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating evolving a new National Shipping Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) There are 52 shipping companies. The precise number of companies earning profits is not readily available. However, according to Indian National Shipowners Association almost all these companies have made operating profits before interest and depreciation during the year 1989-90.

(b) According to latest figures available, the total accumulated losses of the major shipping companies as on 31.3.90 are given below:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Complex</i>	<i>Loss (Rs. lakhs)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1)	Chowgule Steamships Ltd.	8.00
2)	Surrendra Overseas Ltd.	2327.00

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Complex</i>	<i>Loss (Rs. lakhs)</i>
1	2	3
3)	Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd.	13510.00
4)	India Steamship Company Ltd.	10466.00
5)	Tolani Shipping Company Ltd.	58.00
6)	Sicaal Jepsens Ships (India) Ltd.	55.00
7)	Damodar Bulk Carriers Ltd.	3590.00
8)	Mangala Bulk Carriers Ltd.	173.00

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The new draft shipping policy seeks to cover the following main aspects:—

- i) Need for policy incentives regarding speedier clearance of acquisition proposals, age norms for second hand vessels, simplification of scrapping/sale procedure, etc.
- ii) Need to provide adequate foreign exchange for acquisition of vessels.
- iii) Grant of fiscal incentives.
- iv) Re-introduction of investment allowance for the shipping industry.
- v) Augmentation of shipbuilding and shiprepair.
- vi) Encouragement to joint ventures in shipping.
- vii) A balanced approach on pro-

posals for acquisition of new ships vis-a-vis second hand ships.

- viii) Continued operation of cabotage laws.
- ix) Development of Coastal Shipping.
- x) Need for exploring innovative ways of financing ship acquisition.
- xi) Reviewing the existing policy of weightage for public sector in the acquisition of new tonnage.

Loss Incurred by Major Port Trusts

1340. SHRI MOHANBHAI SANJIBHAI DELKAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total loss incurred by various Major Port Trusts due to theft, pilferage and mismanagement during the last one year; and