

[16 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

Lifting of crude oil by SCI

43. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has signed an agreement with HPCL and BPCL to lift crude oil from foreign shores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the Shipping Corporation of India will be able to lift the crude oil from foreign shores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has entered into a contract with BPCL. The contract covers carrying of crude oil for BPCL and KRL from foreign shores and for coastal transportation of Bombay high crude. The contract is for the year 2002-03 and is for a period of 6 months with 2 extensions of 3 months each at BPCL's option. The freight and demurrage rates are market related and mutually agreed between SCI and BPCL. SCI has also decided to enter into a contract with HPCL for carrying of crude oil from foreign shores and for transportation of indigenous crude (RAWA CRUDE). The contract will be for the year 2002-03 and will be for a period of 6 months with 2 extensions of 3 months each at HPCL's option. The freight and demurrage rate will be market related and as mutually agreed between SCI and HPCL.

(c) With its diversified tonnage, SCI can cater to the requirement of imports as well as coastal transportation requirements of all the Indian PSU refineries. With 5 vessels to be added in 2002 and 4 in early 2003, the deadweight of SCI's Tanker fleet shall be further enhanced.

VRSbySCI

44. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India has introduced a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its employees;

(b) if so, the number of employees who have opted for VRS; and

(c) the amount to be paid by the Shipping Corporation of India as retirement benefits to retiring employees under VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) offered a VR Scheme to the employees first on 1.6.2001 and then on 1.3.2002.

(b) The VR Scheme offered in June 2001 had 91 employees opting for VRS. Of these, the SCI Management rejected 12 applications and 79 employees were allowed to proceed on VRS. Of this number, 66 were officers and 13 were staff members. The second VR Scheme had 208 applications for VRS. Of these the SCI Management accepted the applications of 54 Staff members and 123 Officers. The applications of 18 Officers were rejected and 13 employees withdrew their applications.

(c) Under the first Scheme, the *ex-gratia* amount paid to 79 employees was Rs. 6.89 crore. Under the second Scheme, the outgo towards *ex-gratia* payments to Officers and Staff is estimated to be Rs. 14.29 crore.

Sale of surplus land to private bidders

45. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to sell the huge tracts of surplus land laying in the vicinity of some of the major ports in the country to private bidders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether before arriving at the decision, it has been ensured that the proposed step does not affect adversely the future expansion plans of these port trusts; and

(d) the estimated return from the proposed sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No such proposal except from Mumbai Port Trust for sale of excess land has been received. The proposal of Mumbai Port Trust for sale of land not required for port use includes sale of 28.39 hectares at Titwala 3.63 hectares of other small vacant plots at different locations in the city ranging from 24 sq.mtrs. to 3000 sq.mtrs. and sale of let out land of 306.75 hectares let out to 2951 lessees/tenants.

(c) The land proposed for sale is not required for Port's future use and the sale of these lands will not affect Port's future expansion plan.

(d) The sale of vacant land depends on the market response. In case of the proposed sale of let out land, there are a number of variables involved in the computation of the sale price, and therefore, it is not possible to accurately estimate the returns at this stage.