

(a) whether Government is aware that many teachers in the country particularly in remote and rural areas, have hired people to teach their students in place of them on daily wages basis;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents;

(c) whether such practice may not spoil Government's planning to provide quality education to all upto 8th standard, and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to check such practice of hiring people to teach students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The teachers at school level are recruited as per the norms and policies of the respective State Governments. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, (SSA) teachers are sanctioned for new schools and wherever, there is adverse Pupil Teacher Ratio. Till 31st March, 2009, 9.86 lakh teachers have been recruited by the State Governments, as per their norms and policies, salaries for such teachers are provided under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In 2009-10, Rs. 9859 crores have been sanctioned for teacher salary under SSA.

Investigation for the purchase of ships

†2722. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation has been made into the losses made on account of delay in sanction for the purchase of six large Range-1 Product Faster ships by the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) whether responsibility has been fixed after inquiring the concerned officers; and

(c) the details of the safeguards being taken to prevent its recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) The delay in sanctioning of the proposal which was processed under the PIB, CCEA Route was due to compliance of procedural requirement. Since, the delay was not intentional, no investigations were carried out. However, the observations made by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in the audit para with regard to delay in acquisition of these vessels was duly replied by the Ministry.

The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has been conferred "Navratna" status on 1st August, 2008. Accordingly, the SCI Board is now empowered to take investment decisions at its own level and SCI's ship acquisition proposals are no longer required to be processed through the PIB, CCEA route thus avoiding any delays in the future.

Registration of fishing vessels

2723. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has streamlined registration of fishing vessels to strengthen coastal security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also decided to increase the various port's capacities and also to acquire more ships; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Shipping has issued two notifications on June 24, 2009 for streamlining the procedure for registration of the fishing vessels. This will remove the multiplicity of registration regimes for fishing vessels under various Central and State legislations. This will also help in securitizing the country's coastline. Henceforth, registration of all the fishing vessels will be done under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. One of the notifications issued notifies the revised registration format for the fishing vessels. The second notification notifies a list of 127 registrars in various coastal States of the country. These registrars have to register the fishing vessels as per the laid down procedure. With these two notifications, a new system of registration of the fishing vessels has been put in place in the country.

(c) and (d) The capacity of the 12 Major Ports under the Central Government was 574.77 million MT in 2008-2009. By 2011-12 *i.e.* by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan, the capacity is projected to be increased to 1016.55 million MT. The Shipping Corporation of India has a plan to acquire 62 vessels during the 11th Five Year Plan.

Major ports in India

2724. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of major ports in operation in India;

(b) how many new ports are coming up in view of new investment and industrial activities;

(c) whether some of the major industrial houses have been allowed to develop entire port in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether private sector ports specially managed by multinational companies could be security threat for the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K.VASAN): (a) There are 12 Major Ports operating in India.

(b) There is no proposal to set up new ports by the Central Government in the context of new investment and industrial activities.

(c) and (d) Central Government has not allowed any major industrial house to develop an entire port in Orissa.