(ii) Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew), O/o the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai.

(c) The tribunal shall dispose of the reference expeditiously and shall, as soon as practicable on the conclusion of the proceedings, submit its award to the Central Government.

Welfare of parents and senior citizens

881. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would enact a national law for the welfare of parents and senior citizens who do not have any source of income and are above 60 years, binding legally their aged children for maintaining them, similar to the law as implemented recently by Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Government has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 in December, 2007. The Act defines senior citizen 'any person being a citizen of India, who has attained the age of sixty years or above'. The Act *inter-alia*, makes maintenance of parents and senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and enforceable through tribunals. The Act comes into force in a State on such date as the State Government may appoint. As per information available, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has notified the Act on 23.08.2008.

(b) Does not arise.

Welfare schemes for physically and mentally handicapped

882. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare programmes and schemes for the physically and mentally handicapped persons in the country;

(b) the funds allocated for implementation of these scheme's during the last three years, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether funds allocated for this programmes and schemes were used properly;

(d) if not, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the proper utilization of the funds meant for social welfare and empowerment of physically and mentally handicapped persons in the country?