

Foreign vessel crew

2904. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN :

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has booked any foreign vessel crews under Arms Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report of Indian Coast Guard, they have intercepted two vessels in last five years carrying undeclared arms onboard. The details are given below:

- (i) An unnamed foreign boat alongwith 5 crew (4 Thai and 1 Bangladeshi) was apprehended on 6th September, 2013, carrying 1 INMARSAT satellite phone, 3 mobiles phone and one sub machine calibre 45M3 US No.484282 with 100 live rounds and 2 Magazines, One revolver-Python 357 Magnum USA with 124 live rounds and One revolver-Detective SPEC 38 SP colts USA with 5 live rounds.
- (ii) M.V. Seaman Guard Ohio vessel was intercepted on 12th October, 2013 at Tuticorin Port. The vessel had 10 crew and 25 security sentries onboard and was carrying the following arms and ammunition:

Calibre	Arms	Ammunition
7.62 MM Rifles	31	3810
5. 56 MM Rifles	03	297
9 MM Pistol	01	44

Steps taken to check losses of SCI

2905. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE :

SHRI N.K. SINGH :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial health of the Public Sector-Undertaking, Shipping

Corporation of India (SCI) is in debt trap;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such worst financial health of the Shipping Corporation of India; and

(c) whether Government proposes to take effective steps to check losses of the SCI, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) Although Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has incurred losses, the debt equity ratio of SCI as on 31.03.2013 is 1.40, which is reasonable by the shipping industry standards. Accordingly, SCI is not at the risk of debt trap.

(b) and (c) Shipping is a cyclical industry and currently it is in a recessionary phase with freight rates at an all time low in major segments, which has adversely affected the financial performance of SCI in the recent years. The Ministry of Shipping reviews the overall performance of SCI and suitable advice is given to them from time to time to improve their performance.

India's plan to double port capacity

2906. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's ambitious plan to double its port capacity could become a distant dream as major projects involving foreign investors have run aground, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, the steps taken by the Government for capacity expansion of ports are as under:

(i) Upto 100% FDI under the automatic route is allowed for port development projects.

(ii) Income tax incentives are allowed as per Income Tax Act, 1961.