

Support policy for ship owners

2064. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ship owners of the country have requested for restoration of support policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such a policy is in existence in other countries which helps in boosting their ocean freight earnings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far the above policy would address the grievances of the Indian ship owners towards better earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Indian shipping industry has been provided cargo support through Right of First Refusal (RoFR) and policy of Free on Board (FoB) import is being followed for government owned/controlled cargoes. Further, chartering of vessels for movement of cargo on private account is regulated through the Director General of Shipping taking into consideration the availability of Indian flag vessels. Support policy are continuing and have not been withdrawn, hence the question of restoration does not arise.

(c) and (d) Several major maritime countries provide for cargo support to their national shipping lines. Major industrialized economies such as Japan, China, South Korea, and USA have pursued a proactive cargo support policy that stipulate only national flag vessels to carry cargoes.

(e) No specific grievance with respect to the functioning of this FoB import and RoFR policy has been received.

Competitiveness of shipping industry

2065. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make the shipping industry competitive to utilize the full potential in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the projects taken up and completed, including the investment made for these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether there is any vision to enlarge the scope of shipping industry in future; and