

[20 November, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has suggested that arrears in courts continue to pose a serious problem and mooted the idea of compulsorily sending cases pending for more than 10 to 15 years to Lok Adalats;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the total Lok Adalats at present in operation;

(d) the cases that have been forwarded to them; and

(e) to what extent these Lok Adalats have reduced the arrears in courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) So far, 1.43 crore cases have been amicably settled through Lok Adalats. In Motor Accident Claims Cases, compensation amounting to over Rs. 3615 crores has been awarded.

Strategy to improve the working of major ports

108. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any strategy has been adopted to improve the working of major ports and to reduce costs in various areas of operation by Government and at Port level;

(b) if so, the details thereof, port-wise; and

(c) the results achieved in each port during the last three years; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI Su. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Improvement in the working of major ports is a continuous process. A campaign has been launched to reduce cost in various areas of Port operations and improve the working of Major Ports. For this, suggestions for reducing cost from different quarter including Port User, Chamber of Commerce & Industry have been received. Various operating areas at all Major Ports like consumption of fuel and

power, inventory management, overtime, medical expenses, incentives, manpower rationalisation, implementation of electronic data interchange, etc. are targeted in an attempt to improve performance.

(c) It is possible to specifically quantify the impact of all the measures on total business of the Ports. However, most of the ports are reporting improvement in operating surplus in the current financial year. Efficiency parameters like pre-berthing detention, average turn around time and output per ship berth day at Major Ports have improved during the last three years as under:—

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Average pre-berthing Time (days)	0.90	0.50	0.50
Average Turn around Time (days)	5.10	4.10	3.70
Output per ship Berth day (tonnes)	5871	6701	6972

Foreign Exchange earnings by major ports in the country

109. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether major ports of the country are earning foreign exchange through their operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and port-wise; and

(c) the strategy being adopted by the ports to increase their foreign exchange earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI Su. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.