

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have decided to revise guidelines for private sector entry into the major port sector;
- (b) if so, whether any meeting of stake holder in this sector was convened;
- (c) if so, whether any programme of action has been prepared;
- (d) if so, the details of specific additional concessions/incentives now proposed to make private sector entry into major ports more investor friendly; and
- (e) the difficulties experienced in implementing the joint venture policy for major ports, announced about five years ago in 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) As part of an exercise to speed up the decision making process and further private sector investment in development of major ports, the Government has undertaken a review of the existing guidelines on private sector participation in major ports with a view to updating and if necessary, revising them and issue a consolidated set of guidelines on the subject.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter is under process.

(e) No difficulty in implementing the guidelines on formation of joint ventures by major ports has come to the notice of the Government. However participation in the development of major ports by the private sector on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis or by taking the existing assets of the port on lease is preferred, which cater to the needs of the major ports to a substantial extent. The scope for formation of joint ventures by major ports is, therefore, limited.

**Proposal for replacement of old ships by SCI**

4598. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government propose to replace the ageing ships;
- (b) if so, the number of ships with the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI);
- (c) how many of these are being replaced; and
- (d) the details and the cost involved in the acquisition of new ships ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Shipping

Corporation of India proposes to replace some vessels in its fleet which have completed their economic life.

(b) to (d) As on 26-4-2003 SCI owns a fleet of 87 vessels and one ship is on lease with SCI. As per Government of India guidelines on the age norms for Indian flag vessels, the 10 vessels of SCI have crossed their prescribed age limit. SCI has plans to replace all such vessels in near future.

In its bid to replace the ageing tankers, SCI has already inducted two new building Aframax size crude oil tankers into its fleet this year (one each in the month of March and April, 2003). SCI also has four vessels currently on order which are expected to be inducted in its fleet over the span of next 13 months.

SCI has the following vessels on order as on 26-4-2003 :

Vessel	Nos.	Shipyard	Dwt/ Vessel	Delivery Expected	US\$ M/Vessel Cost of the vessels to be acquired
Aframax Tanker	2 2	Hyundi Heavy Industries, South Korea	110,000	May 2003	35.76 August 2003
LRU Tankers		Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engg. Co., South Korea	146,860	February 2004	48.7 May 2004

In addition to the above, SCI is also planning to acquire one Aframax size crude oil carrier and 2 Very Large Crude Carriers.

#### **Assistance to guild of service of North India**

4599. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of Guild of Service of North India working under the auspices of National Commission for Women, which is actively engaged in the rehabilitation of unfortunate widows languishing in Mathura-Vrindavan;

(b) whether any financial and other assistance has been given this NGOs; and