

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1587
ANSWERED ON 14/03/2023

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT IN SVAN

1587. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering any proposal for amending Ship Vessel Age Norms(SVAN) invoking Section 456 of MS Act 1958 to reduce the age of coastal vessels to 20 years;
- (b) if so, the compelling situation in the present context; and
- (c) if not, whether the Ministry is aware that the Directorate General of shipping is moving forward with such a proposal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a), (b) & (c) The Directorate General of Shipping, an attached office of this Ministry, has issued "DGS Order No. 06 of 2023" dated 24.02.2023 regarding the Age Norms and other Qualitative parameters for registration/ operation of vessels under Indian flag and for foreign flagged vessels that are required to apply for licence under Section 406 & 407 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

The main purpose of the above DGS Order is as below:

- (i) The average age of Indian fleet is higher than that of the world fleet in most of the vessel categories. Further, to achieve the goal under International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), embracing technological innovation along with the transition to low- and zero-carbon fuels and/or alternative energy sources will be required and for this, modernization of the Indian fleet is pertinent.

(ii) This order mandates an entry age criterion for registration of Indian flag vessels and foreign flag vessels which is required for the licence under the Sections 406 & 407 of the MS Act, 1958 as this is expected to foster the growth of quality Indian Tonnage.

However, existing vessels regardless of their age on the date of issuance of this Order, affected by the maximum age prescribed in the Order, have been allowed to operate up to three years from the date of the issue of this Order in order to give sufficient time for transition.
