

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1556
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

GREEN SHIPPING

1556.SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the status of legal personhood and the rights granted to rivers by the judiciary and balance these rights with India's developmental goals; and
- (b) the major challenges in transitioning to green shipping in order to reduce carbon emissions from the shipping industry, alongwith the steps taken by the Government to address these challenges?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand vide its Order dated 30.03.2017, in WP(PIL) No 140/2015 – Lalit Miglani V/s State of Uttarakhand & others has inter-alia directed to declare Glaciers including Gangotri & Yamunotri river, streams etc. as legal entity/legal person in order to conserve and preserve them. The Central and State Government(s) are already making due endeavors and concerted efforts to protect and preserve the quality of waters in the rivers in the country.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, however, in SLP (Civil No) 34250/2017 – Union of India & others v/s Lalit Miglani & others vide its Order dated 27.11.2017 has stayed the Order dated 30.03.2017, passed by the Hon'ble High Court, Uttarakhand.

(b) The Government of India is committed to the cause of sustainable and environmentally responsible maritime practices. Acknowledging the urgency of addressing climate change and its potential impact on both the global and Indian maritime ecosystems, Government has devised a comprehensive Policy through the

Maritime India Vision 2030, involving a combination of regulatory support, financial incentives, research and development, and international collaboration to achieve sustainable maritime practices. Challenges faced for Green Shipping and Decarbonization are given in **Annexure-1**: Steps Taken by the Government to address these challenges are given in **Annexure-2**.

Challenges faced for Green Shipping and Decarbonization

- (i) **Adoption of Green Technologies:** Although there have been notable advancements in cleaner propulsion systems globally, one of the primary challenges Indian maritime sector faces in its decarbonisation is the adoption of new and emerging green technologies which requires substantial capital investment, technological readiness, and supportive infrastructure.
- (ii) **Infrastructure Development:** Developing adequate infrastructure to support green ships also is major challenge, particularly regarding the production of zero-carbon fuels and to make it available across the ports. This includes establishing bunkering facilities for green fuels, shore-based power supply for berthed ships, and upgrading ports to accommodate green vessels changing needs.
- (iii) **Regulatory Frameworks:** Implementing effective and harmonized regulations for promoting green practices while ensuring global competitiveness is a delicate balancing act. The regulatory landscape being promulgated through the International Maritime Organization need to be adopted and implemented on Indian fleet, without unduly burdening the shipping industry, especially on small and medium-sized ships.
- (iv) **Skill Upgradation and Awareness:** Embracing green shipping necessitates a skilled workforce proficient in operating and maintaining environmentally friendly vessels and technologies.
- (v) **Financial Constraints:** Financial barriers hinder the acquisition of cleaner vessels and technologies, particularly for the shipowners and operators. Facilitating access to sustainable financing mechanisms and incentivizing investments in green initiatives are crucial to overcome this challenge.

Steps Taken by the Government

- (i) **National Maritime Vision 2030:** The Government, in collaboration with stakeholders, has developed a comprehensive National Maritime Vision 2030 that outlines the roadmap for sustainable growth of the Indian maritime sector. It includes provisions for green shipping and outlines initiatives for decarbonisation of maritime sector.
- (ii) **Research and Development (R&D):** The Government is ensuring special focus on R&D projects aimed at exploring and promoting green technologies within the shipping industry. MoPSW in association with the Denmark has established a Centre of Excellence for Green Shipping and Green Ports at “The Energy Research Institute (TERI)”, New Delhi.
- (iii) **International Collaboration:** Government is actively engaged with international forums like the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to share experiences and best practices related to green shipping. Collaborating with other nations and organizations enables us to stay abreast of the latest developments and fosters the exchange of knowledge. Government is engaged in several international partnerships projects such as IMO Green Voyage 2050, IMO Glo Litter and IMO Glo Noise 2050 project etc.
- (iv) **Regulatory Interventions:** The Reduction of GHG Emissions from shipping is regulated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) through the “International Convention for Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)”. India has ratified the Convention and all the requirements of the Convention for emission control from Shipping are promptly implemented on Indian ships, as applicable from time to time. This includes Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI), the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) and an operational carbon intensity standard called the Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII).
