

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2233**  
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025

**AGE BASED RESTRICTIONS ON INDIAN FLAGGED VESSELS**

2233. SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.:

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

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय**

- (a) whether it is a fact that over 700 Indian flagged vessels, mostly operating in coastal and near shore routes, are expected to retire prematurely on age based restrictions being imposed by the Government, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that this would render 20,000 seafarers jobless and impact the livelihood of more than one lakh people, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that according to the International Maritime Federation, the blanket ban on age of the ship and disproportionate RPSL penalties are not only operational hurdles, but also they are existential threats to India's maritime ecosystem, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive global dataset of over 1.3 lakh commercial vessels and 3.7 lakh inspections found older vessels, especially those that have operated sagely during last twenty five years, often demonstrate better safety records than newer ships, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The Government continuously reviews maritime regulations with the objective of enhancing safety, environmental compliance, and alignment with international standards. The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) had issued Order No. 6 of 2023, introducing age-based cut-off norms for registration into Indian flag, such as 25 years for gas carriers, chemical tankers etc., 20 years for oil tankers, bulk carriers etc. The policy does not mandate scrapping but discourages prolonged operation of aging, less efficient vessels through registration restrictions, with implementation proposed in a

phased manner. The Order further allowed continued operation of registered Indian-flagged vessels based on compliance with specified qualitative parameters.

This regulatory measure aims to gradually phase out older, less efficient, and environmentally substandard vessels in alignment with India's commitment to fleet modernization, maritime safety, and global decarbonization goals. The aim of the policy is to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the Indian fleet to become sustainable with respect to the global safety and environmental policies, and cannot be treated as threat to maritime ecosystem.

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