

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2128
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2025

FUNCTIONS OF THE INDIAN REGISTER OF SHIPPING

2128. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- a) whether the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) is a Government, private or Government-controlled entity;
- b) whether the Government monitors its functioning, if so, the details of reviews or assessments made during the last ten years, year-wise;
- c) the regulatory or statutory functions assigned to IRS along with relevant rules or notifications;
- d) whether the Government has excluded other classification societies from similar roles, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- e) whether any representations have been received from stakeholders regarding Governance of IRS or functioning during the last ten years, if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) & (e) Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) is a non-profit entity registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and is governed by applicable company law provisions and it functions under its own Memorandum of Association and internal administrative framework. IRS is one among nine Recognised Organisations authorised by the Government of India to undertake survey and certification functions under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. Four recent complaints have been received against functioning of IRS, which are being examined by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways for appropriate action.

(c) & (d) Government of India, under Gazette Notification S.O. 3316(E) dated 26.12.2014 has authorised nine international classification societies including IRS to undertake statutory surveys and issue or endorse certificate for cargo ships under the following IMO conventions/ instruments:

1. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS-74)
2. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973/78 (MARPOL-73/78)
3. International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (ICLL-66) and its 1988 Protocol.
4. International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969
5. Relevant Rules, Orders and Notifications issued under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

Government of India vide Gazette Notification S.O 768(E) dated 07.11.1997 has appointed IRS as the sole Load Line Assigning Authority under the Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Rules, 1979, which is an exclusive delegation only to IRS.
