

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3385**  
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2026

**MARITIME SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

3385. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) the growth in the number of registered Indian seafarers since 2014, year-wise and the measures taken by the Government to make India a leading global supplier of skilled maritime manpower;
- (b) the progress made in developing the country as a global hub for shipbuilding, ship repair and ship recycling, including the status of the Maritime Development Fund, proposed shipbuilding clusters and mega shipbuilding parks; and
- (c) the present status of maritime education, training institutions, simulators and certification infrastructure for achieving the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 target of 4 million Gross Tonnage shipbuilding capacity?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) As per Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) Seafarer Workforce Report, India has improved to 2nd rank globally in year 2025 contributing 12.16% of global share of seafarers as compared to 5th rank contributing 5.2% of global share of seafarers in year 2015. The number of active Indian seafarers has shown a growth of nearly 176%, increasing from 1,17,090 in 2014 to 3,23,429 in 2025. The year-wise detail is as tabulated below:

| Year | Seafarer |
|------|----------|
| 2014 | 117090   |
| 2015 | 126945   |
| 2016 | 143940   |
| 2017 | 154349   |

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 2018 | 208799 |
| 2019 | 234886 |
| 2020 | 224478 |
| 2021 | 205787 |
| 2022 | 250186 |
| 2023 | 285454 |
| 2024 | 307901 |
| 2025 | 323429 |

The Government through Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), a subordinate body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has undertaken several strategic initiatives to position India as a leading global supplier of skilled maritime manpower. The details are as follows:

- i. Nationwide awareness and outreach programmes have been undertaken, across schools, colleges, universities, National Cadet Corps (NCC) units and other educational institutions to promote maritime careers among students from both coastal and non-coastal regions.
- ii. Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) have been integrated with Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs), creating a structured pathway for technically qualified youth to pursue maritime careers. Through this initiative, ITIs across the country have been linked with MTIs, enabling students from technical trades such as Electrician, Fitter, Welder, Machinist, Marine Engine Fitter, Refrigeration Technician and other engineering disciplines to undergo maritime training and transition into employment in the Merchant Navy and the maritime sector.
- iii. A structured framework has been prepared for Agniveers and retired personnel from Indian Navy, to transition into the Merchant Navy through recognition of their education, training and sea service, supplemented by bridge courses and certification, wherever required. This initiative facilitates the seamless induction of trained and experienced defence personnel into the merchant shipping sector, thereby augmenting India's pool of highly skilled maritime professionals.
- iv. e-Samudra digital platform has been operationalised to provide a comprehensive paperless e-Governance ecosystem covering maritime training, certification, examinations, ship registration, statutory approvals, licensing and other stakeholder services. The platform will streamline service delivery, improve transparency, reduce processing time, and enhance ease of doing business while strengthening the administration of maritime education, training and certification.

(b) A comprehensive Rs.69,725 crore Ship building package has been approved by the Government, to strengthen domestic capacity, maritime financing, shipyard development, skilling, and reforms. Key components of this includes:

- i. Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) with Rs. 24,736 crores to enhance scope and address cost disadvantages faced by Indian shipyards against foreign shipyard.
- ii. Maritime Development Fund (MDF) of Rs. 25,000 crores comprising a Rs. 20,000 crore Maritime Investment Fund (MIF) and Rs. 5,000 crore Interest Incentivisation Fund to strengthen long-term financing in the sector. SBI ventures Limited has been appointed as the Fund manager for MIF.
- iii. Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) with Rs. 19,989 crores outlay to expand capacity to 4.5 million Gross Tonnage annually while supporting greenfield shipbuilding clusters.

National Shipbuilding Mission (NSbM), an interministerial body, has been established as the nodal agency to oversee the implementation of Shipbuilding schemes viz. Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SBDS) launched by Government of India. Under Shipbuilding Development Scheme, proposals for the development of greenfield shipbuilding clusters in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, as well as three brownfield capacity expansion projects of various existing shipyards have been given in-principle approval, after appraisal by NSbM.

To strengthen the ship recycling ecosystem, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has released financial assistance of Rs. 53.5 crore under the Ferrous Scrap Development Fund (FSDF) to 109 Indian ship recycling yards to support yards modernization. Assistance of Rs. 2.49 crore per annum is released from FSDF for development and operation of a multispecialty hospital at Alang, Gujarat. In addition, Rs. 12 lakh per annum under the FSDF is also released for maintenance and operation of another primary hospital at Alang, Gujarat. These measures have helped the yards to become Hong Kong Convention (HKC) compliant and at present 115 operational ship recycling yards at Alang are HKC compliant. The HKC compliance allows India to target a larger global market share by positioning Indian ship recycling yards as safe, certified, and environmentally responsible destinations for global shipping fleets.

For enhancing competitiveness, Government of India has launched Shipbreaking Credit Note Scheme, under which ship owners receive a credit note equivalent to 40% of scrap value of recycled ship when the recycling is done at a HKC compliant Indian ship recycling yard. The credit note can be utilized towards payment of up to 5% of the value of a new ship built at an Indian shipyard, thus promoting both domestic ship recycling and shipbuilding.

(c) India has developed a comprehensive maritime education, training and certification ecosystem to support the future manpower requirements of the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. The current ecosystem comprises 176 Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs), including 81 Pre-Sea Institutes and 95 Post-Sea Institutes, offering a wide range of officer and rating courses. The approved annual intake capacity stands at 23,717 candidates in pre-sea courses and 22,264 candidates in post-sea courses.

India also has a well-established simulator training ecosystem across DGMA approved Maritime Training Institutes, with 20 simulator-based courses being conducted nationwide. Modern training facilities include Full Mission Bridge

Simulators, Full Mission Engine Room Simulators, Radar/ARPA, ECDIS, GMDSS, Liquid Cargo Handling, LNG/LPG, and Ship Manoeuvring Simulators, enabling trainees to gain practical experience in a controlled environment. Between 2020 and 2025, more than 1.15 lakh candidates underwent various simulator-based training programmes, reflecting the growing importance of simulation-led competency development.

Further, the initiatives taken for Skill development are as follows:

- 150-hour OJT model has been introduced in Shipyards for ITI trainees and as part of these 727 trainees have already been trained till date in these yards.
- Training of Trainers (ToT) program has been implemented at 2 ITIs in West Bengal by Centre of Excellence in Maritime Shipbuilding (CEMS).
- A preliminary Skill Gap Study has been completed across 9 shipyards.
- Indian Ship Technology Centre (ISTC) has been established as a Section 8 company to facilitate skilling.
- A total of 92,697 candidates has been trained/skilled/upskilled during the last 3 years. The detailed institution-wise skilling progress achieved are placed at **Annexure-I**.

**Annexure-I****Training and Upskilling of Employees**

| <b>S. No.</b> | <b>Organisation</b>                                                       | <b>No. of Employees (Skilled/ Upskilled in 2023-24)</b> | <b>No. of Employees (Skilled/ Upskilled in 2024-25)</b> | <b>No. of Employees (Skilled/ Upskilled in 2025-26)</b> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1             | Kamarajar Port Limited                                                    | 36                                                      | 60                                                      | 44                                                      |
| 2             | Mormugao Port Authority                                                   | 589                                                     | 828                                                     | 499                                                     |
| 3             | Chennai Port Authority                                                    | 528                                                     | 857                                                     | 679                                                     |
| 4             | Visakhapatnam Port Authority                                              | 2781                                                    | 3525                                                    | 2975                                                    |
| 5             | Cochin Port Authority                                                     | 290                                                     | 302                                                     | 340                                                     |
| 6             | Mumbai Port Authority                                                     | 1294                                                    | 1300                                                    | 1168                                                    |
| 7             | Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority                                           | 619                                                     | 477                                                     | 574                                                     |
| 8             | National Inland Navigation Institute & Maritime Skill Development Council | 2288                                                    | 1697                                                    | 2406                                                    |
|               | <b>TOTAL</b>                                                              | <b>6137</b>                                             | <b>7349</b>                                             | <b>6279</b>                                             |

**Training and Skill development of New Trainees**

| <b>S. No.</b> | <b>Organisation</b>                                                   | <b>No. of Trainees (Trained in 2023-24)</b> | <b>No. of Trainees (Trained in 2024-25)</b> | <b>No. of Trainees (Trained in 2025-26)</b> |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1             | Cochin Shipyard Ltd.                                                  | 655                                         | 571                                         | 1090                                        |
| 2             | JNPA Multi-Skill Development Centre                                   | 663                                         | 970                                         | 792                                         |
| 3             | Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass)                                 | 811                                         | 1207                                        | 1399                                        |
| 4             | NTCPWC (IIT Madras)                                                   | 45                                          | 60                                          | 68                                          |
| 5             | Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) (through affiliated institutes) | 16,310                                      | 17,820                                      | 18,414                                      |
| 6             | CEMS (Exclusive of Major Ports)                                       | 2479                                        | 3257                                        | 4968                                        |
| 7             | Major Ports (through CEMS)                                            | 175                                         | 300                                         | 433                                         |
| 8             | IMU (with CGSSC support)                                              | -                                           | -                                           | 445                                         |

|  |              |        |        |        |
|--|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
|  |              | 21,138 | 24,185 | 27,609 |
|  | <b>TOTAL</b> |        |        |        |

### OJT Trainees at Shipyards

| Shipyard               | OJT Trained |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Cochin Shipyard (CSL)  | 100         |
| Swan Defence (SDHIL)   | 230         |
| Goa Shipyard (GSL)     | 22          |
| Hooghly Cochin (HCSL)  | 60          |
| Mazagon Dock (MDL)     | 57          |
| Garden Reach (GRSE)    | 193         |
| Titagarh Naval Systems | 65          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>727</b>  |

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