

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1588  
ANSWERED ON 14/03/2023

**DECLINING BUSINESS ON CHATTOGRAM AND KOLKATA PORTS**

1588. DR. SANTANU SEN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken into cognizance of the declining business on the Chattogram-Kolkata coastal route;
- (b) if so, whether Government has proposed corrective measures to address this decline;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has proposed permanent business-friendly policy in cooperation with Bangladesh to smoothen the service on the route;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, whether Government is planning to devise any such policy soon?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) The service between Kolkata to Bangladesh has witnessed a slight drop in this current fiscal year.

(b) & (c) It is gathered from stakeholders functioning at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata that because of some internal issues in Bangladesh, Letter of Credit (LC) generation is being affected. There has been lower demand of cargo from Bangladesh this year compared to previous year. Requests from many exporters have been received to increase demurrage free time from current 15 days to 30 days so that they can aggregate the cargo and ship it as soon as they get LC from Bangladesh side.

(d)& (e) Kolkata provides the following facilities to Bangladesh bound cargo:-

(i) 40% concession on box rate on Bangladesh bound import/export containers going through protocol route.

- (ii) Bangladesh bound cargo has been given coastal status which attract lesser vessel & cargo related charges.
- (iii) 70% waiver on Calcutta Dock Labour Board (CDLB) charges for stuffing/destuffing of containers in Khidderpore Dock (KPD).
- (iv) 15 days' demurrage free time for export shipment to Bangladesh.
- (v) Shipment of Stone chips, stone, boulders to Bangladesh given volume based waiver on wharfage charges. Volume exporter who handles more than 1,00,000 MT by rail given 50% waiver on local haulage charges.
- (f) Does not arise.

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