

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3180**  
ANSWERED ON 28/03/2023

**COASTAL SHIPPING TRAFFIC**

3180. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

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

- (a) whether there is an increase in the coastal shipping traffic in the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Union Government is going to take any steps to increase the total freight movement through the water transport in the country and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b) Under Sagarmala Programme, various initiatives and projects have been undertaken to facilitate increase the total freight movement through coastal shipping mode. In this regard, the Government has taken following measures to enhance coastal shipping:
- (i) Under the Sagarmala Programme, 70 projects worth Rs.2856 crore have been sanctioned for the development of Coastal Berths, Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax Jetties/Passenger Jetties etc. Out of which 15 projects worth Rs. 849 crore have been completed.
- (ii) Licensing relaxation under section 407 of the Merchant shipping Act is given to container vessels for carrying EXIM containers and empty containers at transshipment ports for outbound transport; and to foreign flag vessels carrying agricultural, fisheries, horticultural, fertilizers and animal produce commodities subject to the condition that these commodities constitute at least 50% of the cargo on board the ship at the beginning of the coastal leg.
- (iii) A discount of 40% is offered by major ports on vessel and cargo related charges to coastal cargo vessels.

- (iv) Priority berthing policy for coastal vessels has been notified to reduce turnaround time for coastal vessels and improve their utilization.
- (v) Reduction of GST on bunker fuels used in Indian Flag Vessels from 18% to 5%.
- (vi) Green channel clearance introduced for faster evacuation of coastal cargo at ports.
- (vii) Allowed reimbursement of freight subsidy on primary movement of subsidized urea and P&K fertilizers by coastal shipping or inland water transportation.
- (viii) The projects for improvement in the first and last mile road and rail connectivity with all the major and non-major ports have also been identified for faster cargo movement. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is working with Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to implement these projects.

The details of the coastal cargo traffic state wise for last three years is as under:

State-wise coastal cargo traffic for last three years (MMTPA)			
States	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Gujarat	32	27	31
Maharashtra	25	24	28
Goa	1	1	1
Andhra Pradesh	17	14	17
Karnataka	5	5	5
Kerala	6	6	6
Tamil Nadu	14	15	17
Puducherry	1	1	1
Odisha	20	17	22
West Bengal	5	3	3
Andaman & Nicobar	1	1	1
Total (MMTPA)	127	114	132

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