

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 47
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2024

PROBLEMS IN TRADE THROUGH SUEZ CANAL DUE TO ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

47. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cost in terms of time and money of shipping between the Mediterranean Sea and Indo pacific region has skyrocketed because of the Israel-Hamas War;
- (b) whether Indian export in multiple sectors is also hit due to low margins as ships are routing through the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa instead of the Suez Canal;
- (c) whether the situation is also going to affect the supplies in the country, if so, to what extent; and
- (d) the response of Government and how Government intends to tackle the situation to sustain exports and supplies?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (d) Some increase in freight cost has been reported by industry. Exports from India are continuing as the sailings of containers carrying ships from India have been diverted via the Cape of Good Hope route. The crisis in Red Sea, at present, has also not much affected the availability of containers in most of the ports. Indian Navy has substantially enhanced maritime surveillance efforts in Central / North Arabian Sea and augmented force levels. Aerial surveillance by long-range maritime patrol aircraft and RPAs has been enhanced to have a complete maritime domain awareness. Towards effective surveillance of EEZ, Indian Navy is operating in close coordination with Coast Guard. The overall situation is being closely monitored by the government.
