

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1438
ANSWERED ON 11.03.2025

STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING PORTS AND TERMINAL INFRASTRUCTURE

1438. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government's goal of making India the world's factory risks of being held back by the country's inability to attract bigger container ships due to inadequate port infrastructure and the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken and being taken by Government to strengthen existing ports and terminal infrastructure to handle ultra large vessels and the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote shipping container fabrication and manufacture in the country and the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b) Most of the major ports have a draft of at least 14 meters, enabling them to handle large container vessels. Infrastructure development and capacity augmentation of Major Ports is a continuous process. It involves construction of new berths and terminals, mechanization of existing berths and terminals, capital dredging for increasing drafts for attracting larger vessels, development of road, rail and waterways connectivity etc. Further, Vadhvan Port in Maharashtra has been approved to be developed as the mega container port in the country catering the requirement of handling new generation mega size container vessels.

(c) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), one of the major domestic container operators in India, has ceased purchasing containers from foreign sources. In the last five years, it has placed orders with Indian manufacturers for a total of 21,120 containers, out of which 16,613 have been supplied as on 07.03.2025, thereby promoting domestic shipping container manufacturing in the country.
