

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1110
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2025

FERTILIZER TRANSPORTATION VIA COASTAL SHIPPING

1110. SHRI SANA SATHISH BABU:

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

- (a) the quantity of fertilizers transported via coastal shipping over the past five years, portwise, including Kakinada, Visakhapatnam and other ports in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the number of ports upgraded to facilitate fertilizer coastal shipping and any financial or policy incentives offered to promote small vessel/barge-based last-mile delivery;
- (c) the impact of Kakinada Port's cargo handling on fertilizer supply chain efficiency and whether any assessment has been conducted thereof;
- (d) whether Government has assessed the need for a fertilizer-specific port to streamline import, storage, and distribution logistics; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No fertilizer has been transported via coastal shipping in the last five years in any of the ports in Andhra Pradesh.
- (b) All the Major Ports, except Jawaharlal Nehru Port which is primarily a container port, are fully equipped to facilitate fertilizer coastal shipping. Priority berthing is provided for coastal vessels as part of the Coastal Shipping policy of the Ministry. Furthermore, a discount of 40% is offered by Major Ports on vessels and cargo related charges to coastal cargo vessels.
- (c) Kakinada Deep Water Port has an import handling capacity of 18,000 to 20,000 tons per day, equipped with a state-of-the-art automatic handling system for fertilizer imports, operating entirely within a closed warehouse environment. The Port has consistently been among the top 3 importers of fertilizers which underscores its positive contribution to the supply chain efficiency.
- (d) & (e) The existing port infrastructure is deemed adequate to handle the current and projected volumes of fertilizer. The Government's focus is on optimizing the use of the ports' existing facilities to ensure timely and cost-effective distribution of cargo.
