

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SHABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 316
ANSWER ON 21.07.2026

MODERNISATION OF LIGHTHOUSE INFRASTRUCTURE

316. SHRI I.S. INBADURAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to modernise lighthouse infrastructure along the Tamil Nadu Coast;
- (b) if so, the details of the new lighthouse at Chennai, its cost, features, and expected benefits for maritime navigation;
- (c) whether the new lighthouse at Chennai provides enhanced visibility and safety for ships compared to older systems;
- (d) if so, the details of technological upgrades, range improvements and contingency arrangements during adverse weather conditions;
- (e) whether Government plans to upgrade or replace old lighthouses across the country with modern facilities; and
- (f) if so, the details of projects undertaken, funding allocated and timelines for improving coastal navigational infrastructure?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken several steps to modernise lighthouse infrastructure along the Tamil Nadu coast. The Lighthouse at Marina Beach, Chennai, was constructed in 1977 and equipped with powerful lighting equipment which provide enhanced visibility and aids to navigation for mariners and fishermen, thereby significantly improving maritime safety.

The following developments in Tamil Nadu lighthouses have been undertaken:

- (i) The existing Lighthouse at Chennai is equipped with powerful light equipment and modern Aids to Navigation, including a Radar Beacon (RACON) and an Automatic Identification System (AIS). These systems provide extended operational range, all-weather availability, and enhanced navigational support for mariners. The lighthouse is also supported

by a reliable power backup system comprising battery banks, Solar Panels and a standby diesel generator, ensuring uninterrupted operation during adverse weather conditions and power outages.

(ii) Three Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) stations at Nagapattinam, Rameswaram, and Pandiyan Tivu have been upgraded to Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS). The DGNSS is a multi-constellation navigation framework that tracks a greater number of satellites and provides enhanced reliability, availability, and positional accuracy for the mariners, thereby improving the safety of marine navigation.

(e) and (f) The Government continually modernizes lighthouses infrastructure across the country as per international guidelines. The list of lighthouses constructed during last six years is at Annexure-I

Annexure-I

The list of lighthouses constructed during last six years

Sl. No.	Particulars	Cost (in Cr.)	Year of Completion
1	Kalwan Reef Lighthouse (Gujarat)	7.59	2023
2	Saiyad Rajpara Lighthouse (Gujarat)	0.74	2023
3	Dhanushkodi Lighthouse (Tamil Nadu)	7.09	2022
4	Jafrabad Lighthouse (Gujarat)	4.94	2022
5	Tajpur Lighthouse (West Bengal)	4.45	2021
6	Rawalpir Lighthouse (Gujarat)	4.23	2021
7	Valayazhikal Lighthouse (Kerala)	3.65	2021
8	Kuthenkuli Lighthouse (Tamil Nadu)	4.05	2020
