

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4128

ANSWERED ON 24/03/2023

**PROMOTE COASTAL SHIPPING**

4128. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:  
SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:  
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:  
SHRI ARUN SAO:

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

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any new comprehensive plan to promote coastal shipping along the 7500 Kms long coastline of the country to relieve excessive pressure on roads and railways for the movement of cargo;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including new policies and strategies envisaged along with the success achieved in this regard leading to increased traffic movement during the last three years; and
- (c) the details of the assistance/ support provided by the Government to increase coastal shipping by other sectors/ agencies including the private sector?

**ANSWER**

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

(a), (b) & (c) Under Sagarmala Programme, various initiatives and projects have been undertaken to facilitate shifting of cargo from conventional land-based transportation to 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	133

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