

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5383  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023**

**SHORTAGE OF CONTAINERS**

**5383. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been a shortage of containers in the country in the past year;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to establish container manufacturing units to tackle the container shortage and reduce import dependence;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the Government has explored the viability of establishing a container manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh considering that it has numerous ports handling more than 170 million tonnes of cargo, which is the second-highest in the country; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (f): Shortage of containers was reported by various Industry Associations during 2021 at the time of world-wide Covid-19 pandemic.**

**Various steps were taken by Government of India at that time to mitigate the problem. However, such problems have not been reported by Industry Associations recently.**

**The availability and supply of containers depends upon its international and domestic demand and movements. Containers are procured and handled by shipping lines for Export-Import (EXIM) traffic. As reported by Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), in discussion with shipping lines and stakeholders, there has been no shortage of containers in the past year for EXIM businesses.**

**However, CONCOR has been facing some problems in supply and procurement of domestic containers in the recent past. In the experience of CONCOR, the container manufacturing ecosystem in the country is at an initial stage. CONCOR has placed orders on seven indigenous container manufacturers for a total of 19,000 containers in the different States namely Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat. As on 31.03.2023, about 500 containers have been delivered to CONCOR.**

**The Ministry of Railways has no plan to set up container manufacturing facility. Indian Railways mobilises rolling stocks as per the requirements of Zonal Railways. The Ministry of Railways does not maintain State-wise information on cargo volumes.**

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