

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2619
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

COASTAL SHIPPING TRAFFIC

2619. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the coastal shipping traffic in the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government is going to take any steps to increase the total freight movement through the water transport in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes Sir. The details of the coastal shipping traffic in the last three years are as under:

Coastal Shipping Traffic for last three years (MMTPA)			
Coastal Cargo	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total (MMTPA)	114	133	151

- (b) Under Sagarmala Programme, various initiatives and projects have been undertaken to facilitate shifting of cargo from conventional land-based transportation to coastal shipping mode. The Government has taken following measures to enhance freight movement through coastal shipping:
- (i) The Coastal Berth Scheme under the Sagarmala Programme provides financial assistance for creation of infrastructure to promote movement of

cargo/passengers by Sea/National Waterways. Under the Sagarmala Programme, 75 projects worth Rs.2985 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.
