

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*166
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2024

OUTER HARBOUR CONTAINER TERMINAL AT VOC PORT IN TAMIL NADU

*166. THIRU DAYANIDHI MARAN:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the status of the outer harbour container terminal project at V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port in Tamil Nadu since its announcement;
- (b) the time by which the said project is expected to commence alongwith the estimated timeline for its completion;
- (c) the specific measures taken/proposed to be taken to designate the VOC Port as a major transshipment hub on the East Coast of the country;
- (d) the current status of the Green Hydrogen Production Facility at VOC Port and the status of utilization of the land earmarked for this purpose;
- (e) whether NTPC has started work on the green hydrogen production facility at the said port and if so, the details alongwith the status thereof; and
- (f) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to monitor and mitigate the environmental impact of large-scale projects such as the outer harbour terminal and green hydrogen initiatives in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*166 ANSWERED ON 6th DECEMBER, 2024 RAISED BY SHRI THIRU DAYANIDHI MARAN REGARDING “OUTER HARBOUR CONTAINER TERMINAL AT VOC PORT IN TAMIL NADU”.

(a) to (b) Central Government approved the project proposal on 21.02.2024. The tender for the project was floated by V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (V.O.CPA) on 22.02.2024 and opened on 01.07.2024. Due to ineligible bids, the tender was discharged on 30.10.2024. V.O.CPA again invited tenders on 02.12.2024. The construction period & commissioning of stage-I is 36 (thirty-six) months from the date of award of concession. The construction period of stage-II of the facility is 24 months, which is targeted to commence after 5 years of completion of stage-I.

(c) Measures taken to designate V.O.CPA to become a major transshipment hub include conversion of Berth No.9 as a Container Terminal with an capacity addition of 6 lakh TEUs per annum, award of dredging work for the dock basin up to 14.2 metre draft and to widen portion of the port entrance, turning circle and channel patches. V.O.C Port is developing the Outer Harbour Container Terminal with a 4 million TEU capacity to handle deep draft vessels up to 22,000 TEUs which is one of the premier requirements for establishing a transshipment hub. The project is supported through Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to the tune of Rs.1950 Crore or lowest quoted VGF. The location chosen for this project is V.O.CPA, which is strategically located near international shipping lanes and established transshipment hub, i.e., Colombo.

(d) V.O.CPA has allotted approximately 501 acres of land to 4 different agencies for the development of green hydrogen/ammonia production and storage within the port area. The agencies have initiated the preliminary activities such as Survey, Preparation of Plan, etc.

(e) NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) has signed a non-binding MoU with V.O.CPA during Global Maritime India Summit 2023 for Development of Green Hydrogen Hub and offshore wind energy projects.

(f) Environmental and Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ) Clearances from the concerned authorities are obtained for all new projects.

“HaritSagar” green port guidelines have been launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on 10.05.2023 to provide a framework to major ports for sustainable development through reduction of the carbon footprints, pollution and development of monitoring mechanism for environmental performance indicators at major ports.
