

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3454
ANSWERED ON 21/03/2025

SHORTAGE OF SHIPPING CONTAINERS

3454. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the specific measures being implemented to address the rising freight costs and shipping delays that exporters are currently facing across the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to alleviate the shortage and non-availability of shipping containers, which has significantly impacted trade;
- (c) the manner in which the Government is addressing congestion at major ports and the plans/mechanism put in place to improve port infrastructure and logistics to facilitate smoother operations;
- (d) whether any support is being offered to exporters who are struggling with increased costs and delays, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the manner in which the Government ensures that these challenges do not adversely affect their competitiveness in global markets;
- (f) whether there is a coordinated effort between various ministries and agencies to tackle these shipping and logistics issues, if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the manner in which the effectiveness of these efforts are being monitored?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g) The freight costs for Cargo operations through the non-major ports under the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (TNMB) are very competitive to market standards. Further, the non-major ports under the TNMB do not face significant challenges related to shipping container shortages or unavailability.

Various steps have been taken at major ports to streamline logistics such as the construction of new berths, terminals and parking plazas, Mechanization/ Modernization/ Optimization of existing berths and terminals, streamlining of processes through digitalization, expansion of hinterland connectivity through rail and road, etc.
