

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5686
ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

PORT POLLUTION

5686. SHRI SRIBHARATMATHUKUMILLI:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the details of measures taken/proposed to taken by the Government to prevent coal dust and water pollution at major ports, particularly at Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) and Gangavaram Port, including any recent initiatives aimed at improving environmental safety;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken any impact assessment studies on the contribution of major ports, especially VPT and Gangavaram Port to local air pollution and their effects on public health, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the specific details of checklists and procedures that ports are required to follow to ensure materials in trucks or railway wagons are properly covered during transportation;
- (d) whether Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) is effectively adhering to these protocols, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has explored advanced technological solutions for covering cargo stacks beyond traditional tarpaulin methods, to minimize environmental impact and if so, the details of implementation thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards regularly monitor air and water quality and conduct environmental audits at all Major Ports

including Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA). All major ports must comply with the MARPOL Convention and adhere strictly to environmental guidelines.

To enhance environmental safety, initiatives such as mechanized cargo operations, truck-mounted mist fogging cannons, trolley-mounted fog cannons, high-rise walls, wheel-washing systems, covered storage sheds, sewage treatment plants, floating traps, and green belt plantations etc. have been taken place at all Major Ports.

(b) Yes, Various Major Ports have conducted impact assessment studies to evaluate the environmental and operational impacts. Specifically, VPA has conducted an Air Pollution and Source Apportionment Study, an EIA for the modernization of 6 berths, and for the modernization of Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour.

(c) &(d) All Major ports, including VPA, have their own standard operating procedure (SOP) for cargo heading by trucks and wagons. These SoPs including Loading, Covering and Transportation of Cargo, which are mandatory to be followed by all stakeholders.

(e) Yes. All Major Ports are exploring advanced technology to minimize environment impact such as advanced dust suspension technology, automated water sprinkle systems, construction of covered shed etc.
