

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1287

ANSWERED ON- 06/02/2026

INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT IN CHABAHAR PORT

1287. SHRI MANISH TEWARI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has reviewed India's strategic, financial and operational engagement in the Chabahar Port project in Iran in view of the risk of renewed or expanded United States sanctions, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to reduce the exposure of Indian entities, including India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), to potential secondary sanctions and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Indian officials or representatives have been withdrawn from management or decision-making roles related to the Chabahar Port project and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the impact of such measures on India's long-term strategic and connectivity objectives, including access to Afghanistan, Central Asia and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC); and

(e) whether the Government is engaged with the United States and other partners to seek exemptions or safeguards for India's continued involvement in Chabahar and if so, the current status of such diplomatic efforts?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to e) The Chabahar Port project was conceptualized to provide much-needed connectivity to Afghanistan for its reconstruction and economic development and for boosting trade and economic linkages with Central Asia.

An Indian company, India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), through its wholly owned subsidiary, India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ), started operating the port in 2018. On 13 May 2024, IPGL signed a ten-year contract with the Ports and Maritime Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran for equipping and operating the Shahid Beheshti Terminal of Chabahar Port. As per the provisions of the contract, India has fulfilled its commitment of contributing USD 120 million for the procurement of port equipment.

On 16 September 2025, the US State Department revoked the sanctions exception issued in 2018 under the Iran Freedom and Counter Proliferation Act 2012 for Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic development, effective 29 September 2025. Pursuant to discussions with the US side, the latter issued guidance extending the conditional sanctions waiver until 26 April 2026. The Government of India remains engaged with all concerned in order to address the implications of these developments.

*** * * * ***