

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2420
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

Mega Container Terminal Project at V.O. Chidambaranar Port

2420. DR. T SUMATHY ALIAS THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether it is a fact that the outer harbour and mega container terminal project at V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Thoothukudi, involving works such as breakwater, dredging and land reclamation, has faced delays due to repeated failure of private bids;
- (b) if so, the current status and revised timeline for execution of the project;
- (c) whether the project, estimated at about 9,860 crore, has now been proposed for implementation under the PPP–HAM model as of December 2025;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the impact of delays on Tamil Nadu's export and transshipment potential; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to ensure time-bound completion of the project?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Outer Harbour and Mega Container Terminal project at V.O. Chidambaranar Port has faced delays due to non-responsive private bids, with initial tenders discharged after bidders failed to meet pre-qualification criteria and subsequent re-issue receiving no response; to address this, the Port Authority has undertaken wider market outreach, restructured tender conditions, and adopted measures to enhance viability, resulting in a revised project cost of about ₹14,690.76 crore under a Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) and Public Private Partnership framework, which has been submitted to the Appraisal Authority as per Department of Economic Affairs guidelines, and the tender has been floated, with progress and timelines contingent upon receipt of responsive bids and successful completion of the bidding process.

(d) and (e) The V.O. Chidambaranar Port handled 41.72 million tonnes of cargo in 2024–25 and the cargo handled has been growing at ~ 5% p.a over the past 5 years and the port has sufficient capacity to handle more cargo. Further, the outer harbour project would meet the future requirement of container handling capacity.