

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5629
ANSWERED ON 27.03.2026

PORT POLLUTION CONTROL MECHANISMS

5629.SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether Government has conducted a comprehensive assessment of air, water, and coastal pollution arising from port-operations, including emissions from cargo handling, ship berthing, dredging, storage of bulk cargo like coal, and movement of heavy vehicles within and around major and non-major ports;
- (b) whether mandatory environmental compliance standards currently applicable to ports include requirements on dust suppression systems, enclosed conveyor mechanisms, treatment of ballast water and oily waste, control of dredging discharge, and continuous air and water quality monitoring, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether independent environmental audits and real-time pollution monitoring systems are mandated for all ports and whether such data is publicly accessible;
- (d) whether Government proposes to introduce uniform national environmental operating protocols for ports, including penalties for non-compliance; and
- (e) the steps taken to mitigate health and ecological impacts on nearby residents and marine biodiversity due to port-related pollution?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) / State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) periodically monitor air and water quality at ports and conduct regular environmental audits. All the ports adhere to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and hence, strictly comply to all the environmental related guidelines. Further, project-specific Environmental Clearances (EC) are taken by the Major Ports.

ECs granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to port projects stipulate specific terms and conditions relating to environmental

protection and monitoring. These conditions are applicable during both the construction and operational phases of the project.

Independent environmental audits and real-time periodic monitoring are mandated as per the norms of the MoEFCC. All the data related to critical environmental parameters are regularly submitted to regulatory authorities.

The Indian Ports Act, 2025 provides a framework for regulation of environmental aspects at ports, including obligations relating to pollution prevention, preparation of port waste reception and handling facilities. Further, Ministry has issued "HaritSagar" – Green Port Guidelines to promote an environmentally sustainable ecosystem at ports, including measures for reducing carbon footprint and promoting cleaner fuels and green technologies.

Steps to mitigate health and ecological impacts include project-specific Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) /Environmental Management Plan (EMP) appraisal, Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) /Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) clearance, dust suppression and covered cargo handling for dusty materials, regular air and water quality monitoring, environmentally managed dredging and disposal, facilities for ship-generated waste, ballast water compliance, periodic environmental audits with disclosure, etc. Ports also take mitigation measures like covered coal handling, mechanised dust control etc. to reduce emissions.
