GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1356
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2026

INCREASE IN OPERATIONAL SHARE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN PORTS

1356. SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:
पत्तन,पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that private ports, especially those operated by Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd., have increased their share in total cargo handling from about 9% to nearly 24% in the last decade while the share of Central Government-controlled major ports has declined, raising concerns about market concentration and weakened competition in the ports sector; and

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken to ensure fair competition and prevent excessive dominance by a single corporate group?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): The cargo handled by Major Ports has increased from 581.34 million metric tonnes (MMT) in Financial Year (FY) 2014-15 to 854.86 MMT in FY 2024-25.During the same period, the cargo handled by Other Than Major Ports (OTMPs) increased from 470.89 MMT to 742.41 MMT. Therefore, during the FY 2024-25, the Major Ports account for 53.52% of the total cargo handled in the country, and thus remain a dominant player in the sector.

The policy reforms in the Ports, Shipping and Waterways sector have focused on the creation of a level playing field through open competition and transparent auction methodology which allows all market players to freely compete for terminals, berths, facilities etc. under the domain of Central Government and the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021. Specifically, Model Concessionaire Agreement, 2021 provides equal opportunities to all stakeholders through transparent bidding process. Furthermore, 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector has opened the opportunities for investments by national and international market players. The Government is taking a collaborative approach to promote Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in order to enhance efficiency and productivity across the maritime landscape.

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