

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*183  
ANSWERED ON 29/07/2022

**UPGRADATION OF TUTICORIN PORT**

\*183. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

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

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the Tuticorin Port in Tamil Nadu into a freight transit port and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any such proposal is pending with the Government for approval; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.\*183 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 RAISED BY SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S. REGARDING 'UPGRADATION OF TUTICORIN PORT'

(a) to (c) V.O.Chidambaranar Port, Tuticorin (the "VOC Port") has handled total traffic of 34.12 million tonnes in FY '22. Out of the total traffic handled, nearly 45% constituted container cargo i.e. 15.4 million tonnes or 7,81,458 TEUs including both direct and transit cargo. The share of transit cargo was only 21,161 TEUs (around 3% of the total container cargo handled at the port). Transit (or transshipment) cargo is the shipment largely of containers to an intermediate destination, then to another destination enabling shipping lines to maintain minimum ports of call without compromising market coverage.

The current container handling capacity of VOC port is 1.17 million TEUs. The container cargo traffic is handled at 2 terminals (Berth 7 & 8) operated under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with average utilization of around 65% only.

Considering the container traffic growth trend and current utilization levels, three (3) projects of **5.6 million** TEUs are under development in the VOC Port. The 3<sup>rd</sup> container terminal project by converting Berth 9 on PPP mode would add 0.6 million TEUs to VOC Port's capacity. Further, two projects namely, "upgradation of existing Berth 1,2,3 & 4" and "development of Outer Harbour of VOC port" would add 5 million TEUs Capacity. **The overall container handling capacity of the port would get enhanced to 6.77 million TEUs from current capacity of 1.17 million TEUs.**

Aforementioned projects would cater to the direct as well as transshipment cargo demand. However, the demand for transshipment cargo is largely market driven and specifically anchors on the logistic plans of the ship liners and other logistics players.

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