

Re: Need to increase efficiency of Ports- laid

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Tamil Nadu has the country's third largest coastline with a highly urbanized population. This locational advantage has enabled rapid industrialization within the State alongwith air and water connectivity. Tamil Nadu has three major ports namely, Chennai port, Tuticorin Port and Ennore Port alongwith many minor ports. Chennai port also happens to be the second largest container handling port in India. This makes the State a business conducive location.

However, the ports have started to face a serious lack of capacity to carry the container volumes leading to more congestion. This has led to reduction in the efficiency of operations at the ports even in Tamil Nadu since the requisite infrastructure is seriously lacking. Moreover, Indian ports experience high turnaround times for ships. Even though the turnaround times have reduced from 62.11 hours in 2019-20 to 55.99 hours in 2020-21, they are still higher compared to those of many South-East Asian countries like Singapore, which is only 48 hours.

I would, therefore, like to reiterate the impact of economic activities happening in port towns and cities which in turn add value to the State and national Domestic Products along with providing employment opportunities to the population residing there. Thus, I urge that the matter may kindly be seriously looked into.