

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1331
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

COASTAL SHIPPING POLICY

1331. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:
SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:
DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:
SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:

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 bring a Coastal Shipping policy in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the percentage increase in the cargo handling in the national waterways;
- (d) whether the Government has set any target for the ministry under the AmritKaal Vision; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is actively pursuing the promotion of coastal shipping as an energy-efficient and cost-effective mode of transport. In this regard, the Government has taken following measures to enhance coastal shipping:

- (i) Under the Sagarmala Programme, 15 projects worth Rs. 849 crores have been completed for the development of coastal berths, Ro-Ro/ Ro-Pax Jetties/Passengers Jetties.

- (ii) Licensing relaxation under section 407 of the Merchant Shipping Act is given to container vessels for carrying EXIM containers and empty containers at transshipment ports for outbound transport; and to foreign flag vessels carrying agricultural, fisheries, horticultural, fertilizers and animal produce commodities subject to the condition that these commodities constitute at least 50% of the cargo on board the ship at the beginning of the coastal leg.
 - (iii) A discount of 40% is offered by major ports on vessel and cargo related charges to coastal cargo vessels.
 - (iv) Priority berthing policy for coastal vessels has been notified to reduce turnaround time for coastal vessels and improve their utilization.
 - (v) Reduction of GST on bunker fuels used in Indian Flag Vessels from 18% to 5%.
 - (vi) Green channel clearance introduced for faster evacuation of coastal cargo at ports.
 - (vii) Allowed reimbursement of freight subsidy on primary movement of subsidized urea and P&K fertilizers by coastal shipping or inland water transportation.
 - (viii) The projects for improvement in the first and last mile road and rail connectivity with all the major and non-major ports have also been identified for faster cargo movement. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is working with the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to implement these projects.
- (c) Cargo handled by National Waterways has increased by 700% in 2022-23 compared to the cargo handled by National Waterways in 2013-14.
- (d) & (e) Under the AmritKaal Vision Government plans to increase the coastal cargo volumes transported in the country to 1300 MTPA and more than 500 MTPA by National Waterways.
