

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1922
ANSWERED ON – 02/08/2024

GROWTH OF INDIAN PORT

1922. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY:

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

(a) the key challenges faced by the Government in port development in terms of infrastructure development, operational efficiency, regulatory frameworks, environmental sustainability and international competitiveness; and

(b) if so, the strategic initiatives and reforms being undertaken to address these challenges and foster the growth and modernization of India's ports and maritime sector?

ANSWER

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

(a) The key challenges faced by the government in port development are:

(i) Securing Funding: Large-scale port infrastructure projects often require substantial investment, which can be challenging to secure.

(ii) Land Acquisition Delays: Delays in acquiring land for port expansion or new projects can significantly impact project timelines.

(iii) Capacity Constraints: Many ports face limitations in expanding capacity due to physical, geographical, and regulatory factors.

(iv) Logistics and Connectivity Inefficiencies: Inefficient logistics and poor connectivity can hinder the effective operation of ports.

(v) Workforce Skill Gap: There is often a disparity in the skill levels required for advanced port operations versus the available workforce.

(b) Government is focusing on simplifying regulations and streamlining approval processes to improve efficiency. Government has constituted multi agency coordination committees to streamline processes. Government is adopting international best practices and standards to improve competitiveness. To address the challenges in port development and foster the growth and modernization of India's ports and maritime sector, the Indian government has

launched in 2015, the Sagarmala Programme aims to modernize ports, enhance port connectivity, and promote port-led industrialization. National Logistics Policy has been introduced in 2022, to streamline logistics operations and improve supply chain efficiency.

The Maritime AmritKaal Vision 2047 launched by MoPSW in October 2023 outlines a comprehensive plan to transform India's maritime sector. The key initiatives include:

1. Developing World-Class Ports: Focus on creating next-generation ports with advanced facilities and infrastructure.
2. Port Clusters: Establishing clusters of major and non-major ports with capacities exceeding 300 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to enhance efficiency and connectivity.
3. Deeper Drafts: Increasing draft depths to 18-23 meters to accommodate larger vessels and improve handling capabilities.
4. Transshipment Hub: Developing a major transshipment hub to capture a larger share of global shipping traffic.
5. New Major Ports: Developing two new major ports to expand port infrastructure and capabilities.
6. Reducing Vessel Charges: Implementing measures to lower vessel-related charges to make port operations more cost-effective.
7. Private Sector Participation: Boosting private sector involvement through projects under PM Gati Shakti – NMP and the Asset Monetization Plan to improve efficiency and investment.
