

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5093

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001

EFFECT ON EXPORT IMPORT DUE TO DESTRUCTION OF FREE PORT AT KANDLA

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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether country's import/export has been adversely affected to a large extent due to destruction of free port and port trust at Kandla and Paradeep by the cyclone;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) the total loss of revenue and the foreign exchange suffered by the country due to the destruction; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to make up this loss?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c) : There was no decline in the international trade at Paradeep and Kandla ports following the cyclone. The international trade increased by 1.54% (in value terms) at Kandla Port in the remaining period of the year 1998-99 (following the cyclone which hit the port in June 1998) as compared to the same period during 1997-98. The international trade at Paradeep port, which was hit by the cyclone in October 1999, increased by 18.36% (in the value terms) during Oct 1999 to March 2000 as compared to the same period during 1998-99.

(d) : To reduce the adverse impact of such calamities in future, disaster management plans of the ports are being updated and the communication and warning system has also been strengthened. Four additional berths for handling general cargo are being constructed at Kandla port and measures for replacement of obsolete equipments have been taken.

At Paradeep port, mechanical coal handling system at a cost of Rs. 850 crores has been set up. Two clear cargo berths are also being constructed.