

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4917
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
POSITION OF MUMBAI PORT TRUST
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 125 year old Mumbai Port Trust which was India`s premier port till 1995-96 has now slipped to fifth position among India`s major ports;
- (b) if so, the main reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the coveted position has been usurped by Kandla and Vizag ports during the last three years; and
- (d) if so, the steps, the government propose to take to improve the functioning of Mumbai Port Trust ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The decrease in handling of cargo is due to :

- (i) reduction of import of POL products;
- (ii) diversion of containers to Jawaharlal Nehru Port,
- (iii) physical constraints in Mumbai Port to handle large ships, such as limitation of draft, enclosed dock system with lock gate,
- (iv) old and outdated port equipment,
- (v) low productivity and consequently high cost of handling; and
- (vi) octroi levied by the Municipal Corporation.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): To improve the functioning of the Mumbai Port, the steps mooted are :

- (i) modernisation of equipment consistent with emerging cargo mix;
- (ii) change in operating systems and extension of better facilities to trade;
- (iii) achieve optimum employee strength and
- (iv) improve productivity and reduce costs to the users.