

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
MOTHER PORT ON EAST COAST
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the lack of a Mother Port is slowing down the growth of trade and shipping traffic in the country;
- (b) whether the Government have any plans to develop a Mother Port on the East Coast of the country;
- (c) if so, whether any port on the East Coast has been selected for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the criteria adopted for the selection of the port for development as a Mother Port?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2002 ASKED BY SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH REGARDING MOTHER PORT ON EAST COAST

The term mother port is usually applied to a port where container cargo for export is aggregated for uplifting by large container vessels for direct delivery to its ultimate destination, or where container import cargo is received in bulk for onward dispatch to smaller ports by feeder vessels. A mother port must, by definition, be ideal to handle large vessels at berth. The container traffic at Indian major ports has grown at about 12% annual compound rate during the last 3 years. The growth of trade is influenced by a number of factors, such as status of world economy and competitiveness of the domestic industry and trade. Ports and Shipping facilitate transportation of cargo across the seas, but have hardly any role in generation of the cargo. The lack of a mother port has not resulted in slowing down of growth of the trade.

About two-third of the containers originating from or destined for India are transshipped at neighbouring foreign ports, such as Dubai, Colombo, Singapore etc. This situation leads to increased transportation cost. To facilitate direct sailing of containers carrying Indian export cargo to the destinations or to receive import containers destined for India directly at Indian port without transshipment at any foreign port, efforts have been made by the Ministry to facilitate development of one mother port/hub port on the west coast and the east coast of the country respectively.

Keeping in view the totality of the factors, especially concentration of traffic, geographical location vis-à-vis international shipping routes, proximity to existing and potential markets for import and export cargoes etc., Chennai on the east coast is being encouraged to develop facilities required for a mother port/hub port.