

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SURFACE TRANSPORT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000  
DREDGING WORK AT HALDIA DOCK COMPLEX  
ANIL BASU;LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH

**Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the dredging work of Calcutta and Haldia ports is not progressing satisfactorily;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the fund has been allotted for the additional dredging of navigational channel of Haldia Dock Complex;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the manner in which the fund has been spent;
- (f) whether targets set in this regard have already been achieved; and (g) if so, the reasons for undertaking the additional dredging ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) Yes, Sir. (b) Apart from the reduction in depths on the bars due to natural causes, the inadequacy of required number of dredgers has resulted in slow progress of dredging work.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Calcutta Port Trust which had been facing acute financial difficulties for quite sometime, is being granted subsidy on river dredging and maintenance since 1968-69.

The question of continuing the reliefs granted by the Government of India to the Calcutta Port Trust was last examined in January, 1994 and it was inter-alia, decided:

(i) to reimburse 100% of the cost of items directly related to river dredging and river maintenance as well as the cost incurred on items directly related to maintenance dredging of shipping channel leading to Haldia from the year 1992-93 onwards provided that the depreciation on capital expenditure on Haldia Channel dredging will not qualify for subsidy; and

(ii) to help the Calcutta Port Trust to meet the expenditure an `on account payment` upto 90% of the amount payable towards subsidy during previous year may be made to the port in the beginning of the following year.

The details of the amount of dredging subsidy released to the Calcutta Port Trust since the year 1992-93 are as under :

Year	Rupees in Crore
1992-93	33.65
1993-94	63.71
1994-95	112.72
1995-96	110.71
1996-97	51.60
1997-98	117.58
1998-99	238.97

(iii) For the current financial year, a provision of Rs.247.54 crores exists in B.E. 1999-2000. Against this, a sum of Rs.233.42 crores has already been released to the Port Trust towards the expenditure incurred by them on dredging activities.

(e) The Government has made available the requisite funds to Calcutta Port Trust and the Port Trust have spent the same for dredging and river maintenance.

(f) No, Sir. (g) Does not arise.