

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SURFACE TRANSPORT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:392
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
CARGO HANDLING BY INDIAN SHIPS
MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether loading-unloading of freight through Indian Ships is continuously decreasing;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the target set and the achievements made in this regard during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the cargo handling by the Indian Ships?

Answer

MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 392 FOR ANSWER ON 21.8 ASKED BY SHRI MANSINH PATEL, M.P. REGARDING CARGO HANDLING BY INDIAN SHIPS

(a) & (b) Presumably the question refers to loading and unloading of coastal cargo handled by Indian Ships at Indian Ports and percentage share of Indian flag vessels in the overseas cargo traffic at Indian Ports. The following figures are available :-

(`000 Tonnes)

Year	Unloaded	Loaded	Total	Percentage of cargo handled by Indian ships to total Cargo
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OVERSEAS

1997-98	53416	7393	60809	30.0
1998-99	55054	5917	60971	30.5

COASTAL

1997-98	41106	32160	73266	89.7
1998-99	42381	33386	75767	92.0

TOTAL

1997-98	94522	39553	134075	47.2
1998-99	97435	39303	136738	48.4

The figures show that there has been no decline in the cargo handled by Indian ships.

(c) The emphasis during the Ninth Plan has been mainly on maintaining the existing share of Indian flag vessels in Overseas trade i.e. in liner trade 9.8 per cent, dry bulk trade 15.6 per cent and in petroleum products 51.8 percent. No target has however been set for the purpose on a year to year basis.

(d) The steps taken by Government to increase the share of cargo transportation by Indian Ships, include :-

(i) Permitting import of large vessels under Open General Licence w.e.f. 1.4.97.

(ii) Participation of Shipping Corporation of India in joint venture for LNG transportation.

(iii) Shipping Companies have been permitted to retain sale proceeds of Indian ships abroad for fresh acquisition.

(iv) Freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign companies for employment in international cross trade by Indian shipping companies.

(v) Relaxation of Age norms for acquisition of second-hand vessels.

(vi) Simplification of procedure for acquisition of second-hand/new ships.

(vii) Restoration of benefit under Section 33 AC of Income Tax Act to Shipping Industry w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(viii) Reiterating the Government policy of buying on FOB (Free on board) basis and selling on CIF (Cost, insurance freight) basis for all Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings from time to time.