

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:198  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004  
NEW PORT POLICY  
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is considering a new policy for major ports;
- (b) if so, whether the policy strives to promote both inter-port and intra-port competition;
- (c) if so by when the new policy is likely to be announced; and
- (d) the main objectives of the policy?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) A comprehensive policy for the Maritime Sector which includes Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport is under finalization.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No specific time frame has been laid down for announcement of the policy.

(d) The objectives are as follows:

(i) Modernizing the existing ports and upgrading their facilities in order to bring them on par with the leading ports of the world.

(ii) Developing new ports in order to fully utilize the vast coastline of the country and the available draft for deriving the maximum economic advantage.

(iii) Promoting hinterland connectivity to ensure least-distance access of the country's cargo to the ports and also offer choice of ports in the region and terminals inside the ports to Trade.

(iv) Fostering Port specialization and inter-port complementarity for overall optimization of port facilities and the efficiency at the Ports.

(v) Facilitating the increased flow of private investment, both domestic and foreign, and at the same time ensure a competitive environment that would preclude prospects of emergence of monopolies.

(vi) Providing for institutional safeguards for the port infrastructure provider (public authorities/private sector - be it domestic or foreign/joint ventures) regarding investments and ensuring compliance of service standards to the users.

(vii) Promoting multimodal transport in the interest of time and cost efficiency.

(viii) Facilitating the acquisition of Indian tonnage for securing a significant share for the country in world tonnage and for increasing the share of Indian bottoms in the carriage of the country's overseas traffic through cargo support to Indian flag vessels.

(ix) Promoting and strengthening shipbuilding, ship-repair and ship-breaking activities including promotion of indigenous ship design and research.

(x) Providing the necessary infrastructure for turning out qualified Indian maritime personnel of globally acknowledged excellence to benefit from the growing demand of both foreign and Indian flag vessels for such human capital.

(xi) Developing and integrating inland waterways to the national transport network comprising of maritime outlets as well as other points of interface with other surface transport modes.

(xii) Building appropriate institutions to support Training, R&D and other activities necessary to sub-serve and sustain the Shipping and Port sectors.

(xiii) Assuring the state of the art Aids to Navigation at the country's coastline with a view to encourage increased flow of coastal and overseas maritime traffic at Indian ports.