

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1504  
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008  
CONTAINER CARGO HANDLING ON WESTERN COAST  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up an independent expert group to examine the capacity and requirement of container cargo on the Western Coast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government also proposes to merge Mumbai Port Trust with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust to augment the cargo handling capacity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a High Powered Committee to study various aspects of container handling facilities in the Major Ports on the East and West Coast of the country. The Committee will study the infrastructure facilities for handling containers at Major Ports; identification of bottlenecks and problems of congestion, etc.; explore areas of improvement in the entire logistics chain; and make short term and long term recommendations to meet the challenges of increased container traffic.
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d) & (e): Does not arise.