

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2174
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
REGULATION OF PRIVATE PORTS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to regulate the emergence of private ports and the prospects of enhanced trade through them;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is also looking at an omnibus infrastructure regulator to discourage monopolies and cartels;
- (c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and
- (d) the extent to which these ports are being made globally competitive to improve our exports ?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Does not arise.

(d) There are 12 major ports under the control of the Central Government. None of these ports are private ports. Improving the efficiency of major ports is an on going process. However, comprehensive instructions have been issued by the Ministry for private sector participation in major ports with a view to mobilizing resources required for expansion of port infrastructure in the country, improving efficiency, productivity and quality of service as well as to bring in competitiveness in port services. These guidelines, inter alia, stipulate that the major ports should ensure that private investment does not result in the creation of private monopolies and that private facilities are available to all users on equal and competitive terms. Ports other than these twelve major ports fall within the domain of the respective state Governments.