

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4864
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
DREDGING CHARGES OF HALDIA PORT COMPLEX
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether draft situation in Haldia Port Complex (HPC) has gone down considerably thereby threatening the closure of the port;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to bear the cent per cent cost of continuous dredging at the channels leading to HPC; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Haldia Dock Complex (Kolkata Port Trust) faces a unique problem of siltation as it is located on an alluvial river Hooghly. The navigational channel leading to Haldia Dock Complex experiences a lot of siltation. The situation has worsened over the years because of reduction in upland discharge in the River Hooghly leading to sediments not getting washed away as it happened a few decades ago. The channel now requires continuous dredging throughout the year.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. As per the Cabinet decision taken in 1993-94, Kolkata Port Trust, which includes Haldia Dock Complex, is to be reimbursed 100% of the cost on 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.