

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2409

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES ON BILATERAL ISSUES

Rajendran Shri C.

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government had held discussions with other countries on the bilateral issues concerning the ports and shipping sector during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with names of such countries and the issues discussed in such meetings;
- (c) whether the Government has entered/agreed to enter into any major agreement with any of these countries; and
- (d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Government has held discussions with several countries on bilateral issues concerning ports and shipping sector during the last three years. These countries include Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Norway, Iran, Japan, Italy, Austria, Netherlands etc. The discussions covered, inter-alia, issues pertaining to cooperation in the field of ports and shipping sectors.

(c) & (d): The important Memoranda of Understanding, which were signed during the last three years, are given below:

(i) In February, 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and the Netherlands for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of Ports and Maritime Transport and Logistics. In continuation of this, India proposed formation of a Joint Working Group (JWG) to discuss and monitor progress on various matters of cooperation under the MoU. The first meeting of the JWG was held on 17-18 June, 2009 in The Hague, which monitored the progress on the MoU, especially on port development issues, Dutch cooperation in setting up Maritime University in India, training to port officials at STC, Rotterdam etc. During the subsequent visit of Secretary (Shipping) to the Netherlands from May 8-12, 2011, the MoU was extended for a further period of 3 years and issues relating to technical inputs in inland water transport for finalizing a tender for Haldia-Farakka sector were also discussed.

(ii) In April, 2009, Gijon Port in Spain had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 'International Sister Seaports Agreements' with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai and V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin. The MoU cover technical cooperation in port management, promotion of cargo traffic, exchange of experts etc.

(iii) A Memorandum of Understanding between India and Sri Lanka for commencement of ferry service between the two countries was signed in Colombo on 07.01.2011.

(iv) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai and Venice Port Authority, Venice, Italy was signed on 7th November, 2011 in Chennai. Under the MoU, the two countries agreed to enhance maritime trade, exchange of information in the areas of port operations, port management and hinterland connections, develop special subjects of cooperation in the field of education and training of port operators, ITC systems, traffic and trade between Venice and Mumbai.