

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3598
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012
ABSENCE OF REGULAR DREDGING
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has become increasingly difficult for shipping vessels to reach Haldia and Kolkata ports on the banks of river Hooghly in absence of regular dredging;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would take immediate measures by deploying those dredgers that were taken away from dredging activity to clear the shipping route to the above ports; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be deployed?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

- (a) & (b): In view of adverse morphological changes in the Hooghly river, the shipping channel leading to Haldia Dock Complex and Kolkata Dock Complex of Kolkata Port are subjected to continuous shoaling and siltation which requires extensive maintenance dredging throughout the year.
- (c) & (d): Dredging Corporation of India, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Shipping, has been instructed to make available the requisite number of dredgers as per their agreement with Kolkata Port Trust.