

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3733
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
RELAXATION IN CABOTAGE LAW
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after the relaxing of cabotage rules for the containerized cargo for DPW's Vallarpadam terminal in Cochin port Government has started receiving similar relaxation from ports that handles containers;
- (b) the number of requests so far received by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the decision taken or being taken by the Government on the request received from different ports for relaxation under Cabotage Rules; and
- (d) if so, the present cabotage law and relaxation granted to Cochin port?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. Two such requests have been received after relaxation of cabotage rules for the containerized cargo for DPW's Vallarpadam terminal in Cochin Port. These requests were replied with the information that though the possibility of relaxation of Cabotage Policy at all ports/terminals for transshipment of EXIM containers was explored, taking into consideration various factors, including the views expressed by domestic shipping industry and the objective of setting up International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam, it was decided to specifically exempt only ICTT Vallarpadam from Cabotage restrictions for transshipment of EXIM containers.

(d): It was decided, with the approval of the Union Cabinet, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 407(3) of the Merchant Shipping Act, to relax the Cabotage Policy for Transshipment of EXIM (Export-Import) containers to and from ICTT at Vallarpadam in Cochin subject to certain conditions and to review this relaxation after three years.