

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1006
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013
CARGO HANDLING AT PORTS
Das Shri Ram Sundar;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pace of growth in the quantum of cargo handling at some ports in the country has been very less in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of growth in the quantity of goods being handled at the ports; and
- (d) the extent of success achieved year-wise and port-wise in this regard during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): The cargo traffic details at the 12 Major Ports during the period 2009-10 to 2012-13 (upto January, 2013), alongwith the growth rates, vis-À-vis, previous year are given in the Annexure. The reasons for decline in traffic at some Major Ports include:-

- (i) Ban on mining of Iron ore and export of Iron ore
- (ii) Less import of finished fertilizers
- (iii) General recession in Global economy
- (iv) Direction of Hon'ble High Court of Madras to shift handling of dirty cargo out of Chennai Port.

(c): Steps taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of growth at the Major Ports are as under:-

- (i) Construction of new berths and terminals to enhance port capacity to minimise pre-berthing detention time and reduce turnaround time of vessels calling on the Ports.
- (ii) Modernising berths with state of the art loading/unloading equipment to improve operational efficiency.
- (iii) Deepening of channels and berths so that ports can accommodate larger vessels.
- (iv) Improving rail/road connectivity of Ports for speedy evacuation of cargo.

(d): As is evident from the Annexure, most Major Ports have shown growth in cargo over the years. Only Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Chennai and Mormugao Ports have shown a decline in cargo, mainly due to the ban on iron ore mining and banning of dusty cargo by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras at Chennai Port.