GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5322
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
HANDLING OF LARGE SHIPS BY PORTS
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inability of ports to handle large and huge ships, the country has to lose out crores of rupees annually to foreign ports;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inability of Indian ports in handling such large ships;

(c) the details of ports which are dredged to a depth of 17 metres along with the funds provided by the Government to various Indian Ports for dredging projects during each of the last three years and the current year, year-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government for regular annual dredging of all the ports as well as to enhance the capacity of Indian ports to handle large/huge ships?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K.VASAN)

(a),(b)&(c):Three Major Ports i.e. Chennai, Ennore and Vishakapatnam have navigational channel having more than 17 metres draft and are capable of handling larger vessels. Due to the proximity to international maritime routes, transshipment of EXIM containers used to take place largely in foreign Ports like Colombo, Dubai, Singapore, Salalah. To arrest this trend, the Government has developed an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam in Cochin Port which is operational from February, 2011. Year wise break up of budgetary support provided to Major Ports for dredging projects during 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 is as follows:

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(Rs. in crores)
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Year	Budgetary Support
2010-11	521.17
2011-12	332.41
2012-13	245.34
2013-14 (Allocation)	649.11

(d) The Government has been providing subsidy to meet the cost of maintenance dredging in Kolkata Port which is a riverine Port with a very long navigational channel. The Government has also been providing budgetary support to major ports to undertake capital dredging projects. Moreover, all Major Ports are given annual targets for dredging which is closely monitored by the Government.