

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1056
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
EXIT OF CARGO HANDLING COMPANY
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Cargo Handling Company has in the recent past announced its immediate exits from West Bengal's Haldia Port;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the company had disputes with the Kolkata Port Trust Authority, State Government and District administration over allocation of Cargo apart from the deteriorating Law and Order situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K VASAN)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. Haldia Bulk Terminals (HBT), the contractor engaged for dry bulk cargo handling in Berth No. 2 and 8 in Haldia Dock Complex, Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) unilaterally terminated the contract on 03.10.2012.

(c)&(d): Haldia Bulk Terminals (HBT) informed Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) that unless they are allocated 7,50,000 Million Tonnes of Cargo per month in the two Berths No. 2 & 8, they will suspend their operations. Such a demand of HBT was beyond the terms of agreement as no Minimum Guaranteed Tonnage (MGT) was envisaged in the contract. Hence, it was not acceded to. Further, the alleged incidents reflecting deteriorating law and order situation took place outside the Port limits in Haldiatownship, 7 Kms away from the Port area. On its part, Port intimated the law enforcement agencies in the district and sought their intervention. Presently, the dispute between HBT and KoPT has been referred to arbitration. KoPT has also initiated the process of re-tendering the cargo handling operation in these two berths.