

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3076  
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014  
CARGO HANDLING AT PORTS  
Tagore Shri Manicka

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether certain ports in the country are handling cargo beyond their installed/ existing capacities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the capacity to handle cargo more efficiently;
- (c) whether there is an increase in traffic at non-major ports across the country particularly in Tamil Nadu over the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and port-wise; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to handle increased volume of traffic efficiently in major and non-major ports of the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a)&(b): Out of 12 Major Ports of the country, only Mumbai Port is presently handling cargo beyond its existing capacity. For the year 2012-13, Mumbai Port has handled 8.29 million tonnes more cargo than its installed capacity of 49.75 million tonnes. Mumbai Port Trust has initiated action for construction of a second chemical berth to augment capacity to handle liquid cargo.

(c)&(d): As per the Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for development of Non-Major Ports vests with the respective State Governments. However, according to the available information with Ministry of Shipping, there is an increase in traffic handled at Non-Major Ports across the country in the last 3 years.

(e) To enhance the capacity of Major Ports in the country, Government of India has taken following steps:-

- i) Construction of new berths and terminals to minimize 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.