

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1751

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015

COASTAL SHIPPING

Basheer Shri E. T. Mohammed;Devi Smt. Rama;Premachandran Shri N.K.;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Indian ports are lagging behind due to poor infrastructure, capacity and connectivity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon, port-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to connect inland waterways with ports for the development of coastal shipping and inland navigation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the routes identified for connecting particularly for the advantage of cargo movement?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a)&(b): The handling capacity of the Major Ports in the Country is sufficient to match with the trade demands. The capacity of all Major Ports as on 31.03.2014 was 800.52 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) against cargo traffic of 555.54 MMT handled in 2013-14. Thus the capacity utilization is around 70% and as per internationally-accepted norms the gap between the traffic and the capacity is usually around 30%. Moreover, Government has taken many measures to improve the efficiency of operations through mechanisation, deepening the draft and speedy evacuation.

(c)&(d): Yes, Madam. Connectivity of ports with National Waterways (NW) such as Haldia & Kolkata Port (NW1 & 2), Cochin Port (NW 3), Kakinada and Krishnapatnam Ports (NW 4) and Paradip and Dhamra Ports (NW 5) will ensure cargo movement right from the ports to hinterland through National Waterways and vice-versa.