

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6144  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015  
TRANSPORTATION OF COTTON  
Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

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

- (a) whether the raw cotton is being transported from the western to southern coast in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the containers movement held during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether various stakeholders have requested the Government to allow foreign flag vessels for transportation of raw cotton between the two coasts, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action so far taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) As per information of Indian National Shipowners Association (INSA) the containers movement during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 (upto January 2015) was 650, 1200 and 2600 containers respectively.
- (c) Yes, Madam. The Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) and The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) have requested through Ministry of Textiles for relaxation of cabotage rules for cotton shipping, to expand the use of coastal shipping for cotton cargo.
- (d) With the intervention of the Ministry of Shipping facilitating the meeting of stakeholders, SIMA and INSA. INSA offered freight rates which would reduce the cost of transportation by up to 30% and assured adequate deployment of vessels to cater to the demands of SIMA.