

**Title: Need to upgrade New Mangalore Port in Karnataka-Laid.**

**SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI)** : The New Mangalore Port, which is the only major port in Karnataka handles around 18 million tonnes of freight traffic, including iron ore and L.P.G. Mangalore Port serves as a captive port for industries like Kudermukh, Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilisers, etc.

M/s. RITES in its vision 2020 Report has made future projections for the Port taking into account the growth in cargo traffic especially imported coal for the Mangalore Thermal Power Station. But the projection is subject to development of further infrastructural facilities. The growth prospects of the Port is handicapped by lack of railway link to the hinterland project and lack of road connectivity to NH 17 and NH 48.

Mangalore Port is also lagging behind in developing a container terminal on the lines of Cochin and Tuticorin.

The New Mangalore Port is the deepest inner harbour in the country with a dredged depth of 15.5 meters in the outer channel. Container Corporation of India is also planning to build a container depot at Mangalore Port. I urge the Centre to take immediate steps to upgrade the New Mangalore Port to cope with future volume of traffic.