

Modernisation and increasing capacity of major ports

1636. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for modernisation and increasing the capacity of major ports along with the cargo handling capacity in the country;
- (b) whether Government is considering to provide road and rail connectivity to ports for the enhancement of cargo handling capacity for the next three years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the steps taken or proposed to be taken for bringing more investments in shipping industry's overall development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Modernisation and increasing the capacity of Major Ports is a continuous process. Government is regularly monitoring the Port projects to modernise/upgrade to increase capacity of the ports and also to bring them to the international standards through construction and modernisation of berths, installation of state of art equipment and mechanisation of cargo handling system at ports including the dredging projects to accommodate large vessels at major ports. With the increasing capacity of Major Ports the traffic will also gradually increase.

(b) and (c) To enhance the port-connectivity (for both major and non-major ports) to country's production and consumption centres, more than 80 connectivity projects have been identified under the Sagarmala Programme at an estimated infrastructure investment of more than ₹ 2 lac crore. This includes last mile road and rail connectivity infrastructure to the ports, freight expressways, heavy haul rail project to transport coal, new pipelines for transporting crude and petroleum products, development of prioritized inland waterways and new multi-modal logistics hubs.

Infrastructure in shipping sector

1637. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to expand/develop the infrastructure in shipping sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof along with the details of schemes proposed/under implementation; and