

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3006  
ANSWERED ON- 22/03/2021

**RESUMPTION OF CARGO TRAFFIC AT PRE-COVID-19 LEVELS**

3006. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cargo traffic handled at major ports in the country;
- (b) whether the cargo traffic has resumed at the same level, as was during the pre-COVID-19 time;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to ensure an increased traffic for specific sectors such as petrol, oil, Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) containers and coal, in the near future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
(SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

- (a) The details of traffic handled by Major Ports during the last three years is as under:

Year	Traffic (In Million Tonnes)
2019-20	704.92
2018-19	699.09
2017-18	679.37

(b)&(c) The total traffic handled at Major ports during April to February, 2021 was 600.63 Million Tonnes (MT) as against 643.10 MT handled during the corresponding period of previous year due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

(d)&(e) Infrastructure development and capacity augmentation of Major Ports is a continuous process. It involves construction of new berths and terminals, mechanization of existing berths and terminals, capital dredging for deepening of drafts for attracting larger vessels, development of road and rail connectivity etc. As a result, the cargo handling capacity of the Major Ports has gone upto 1534.91 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. This is adequate to handle the present level of EXIM cargo and also increased requirements in near future.