

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2703**  
ANSWERED ON 21/12/2021

**PORT TRAFFIC**

2703. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS:

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

- (a) the decline in port traffic during the COVID-19 period;
- (b) whether port traffic has increased during the current financial year; and
- (c) the steps being taken to increase the traffic?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

- (a) Yes, the cargo traffic at Major Ports declined by 4.57% during 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20. Total traffic handled at Major Ports in 2020-21 was 672.68 Million Tonnes as compared to 704.927 million tonnes in 2019-20. COVID-19's impact at Major Ports started from March 2020.
- (b) Yes, the traffic handled between April-Oct 2021 has increased by 14.59% as compared to the same period over the previous year. During the period of Apr-Oct 2021 Major Ports handled total traffic of around 406.9 million tonnes as compared to 355.16 million tonnes handled for same period last in 2020.
- (c) Government took various efforts and initiatives to mitigate the impact of pandemic and ensure smooth functioning of supply chains. Some of the key initiatives taken are as follows:
  - i. Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and its associated bodies issued various advisories/circulars to provide relief to the trade in terms of non-charging of demurrage and other penalties/charges.
  - ii. Major Ports ensured storage space for cargo and accommodation and food for migrant labourers working in their premises.

- iii. Major Ports remitted VRC charges for quarantined vessels. Various technological/digital induction were expedited during COVID-19 pandemic to maintain smooth functioning without human interference such as E-invoice, E-payment, E-DO and E-BoL at PCS1x, Utility for Sign-on & sign-off (E-pass module), Utility for data verification of seafarers from chartered flights, Online ship Registrations & online charter licensing.

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