

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2704
ANSWERED ON 21/12/2021

INVOLVEMENT OF THE MINISTRY IN PORT RELATED MATTERS

2704. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

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

- (a) whether port authorities can independently decide without consulting the Ministry about the countries from whom containerised cargo shall be banned;
- (b) if not, the reasons due to which the Ministry has not objected to this announcement by APSEZ;
- (c) whether there were other drugs in the past which have been shipped from Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq and whether Government seeks to investigate if there is insinuation of Narco-terrorism; and
- (d) the reasons why port operators are not given the authority/responsibility of policing the containers of cargo passing through their ports, and will the Government revisit such provision?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) The Major Ports of India are under administrative control of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways. Major Ports functions are regulated under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. But, non-Major Ports along with their concessionaires are under administrative control of their respective State Maritime Board/State Government. Their functions are regulated by respective State Maritime Board/State Government. The concerned APSEZ is in concessionaire agreement with Gujarat Maritime Board. Further, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Mundra asked APSEZ to re-examine the matter related to the Advisory issued by them. Accordingly, the APSEZ vide its advisory dated 8.12.2021 has withdrawn its ban with immediate effect.

(c)&(d) Yes, besides the recent case detected at Mundra, there are other cases of seizure of NDPS of Afghan Origin in the Past at other ports. However, Policing/examination of cargos are continuously being done by various Government agencies as per the norms for various commodities and risk parameters ascertained from time to time on case to case basis.
