

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3822**  
ANSWERED ON 05/04/2022

**OVERCHARGING FOR FREIGHT CONTAINERS**

3822. SHRI SYED ZAFAR ISLAM:

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

- (a) whether Moradabad Handicrafts Associations shared the problem of overcharging by the shipping lines for freight containers; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken/being taken to control the price charged by the shipping lines and shortage of freight containers?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The steps taken to control the price charged by the shipping lines and shortage of freight containers:-

i) A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary(PSW) comprising representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Railways, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and stake-holders like the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) to monitor evolving situation of shortage of containers and regular follow up on the initiatives to augment the availability of containers. Meetings are held by the Task Force at regular intervals.

ii) As per the advice of the Directorate General of Shipping, FIEO has set up a portal to bring on-board EXIM traders and Shipping lines on a common platform where the exporters could place their requirements well in advance and shipping lines can also place the schedule for availability of containers. The portal is functional and many Exporters and Service providers have registered themselves on the portal.

iii) Regular interaction with the Shipping Lines and their Association has resulted in increasing the availability of the number of empty imported Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEUs) containers. So far 1.84 million TEUs have been repositioned by shipping lines. New Services to West Africa, USA, Europe and Far East has been started by Shipping Lines further increasing containers supply and availability of space on ships. The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has also diverted one 4500 TEUs container ship 'SCI Chennai' engaged in Coastal trade to EXIM trade from 03.10.2021.

iv) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) has announced a volume-based rebate scheme of upto 100% on rail tariff w.e.f. 01.09.2021 for movement of empty containers from Ports to Hinterland for its further utilization in exports.

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