

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-787**  
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2022

**SHIPPING CONTAINER PROBLEMS**

787. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the latest position regarding the crisis in freight shipping due to the worldwide container shortage crisis;
- (b) the details of month by month increase in rates on the most important routes from India over the last two calendar years;
- (c) the assistance Government has offered to mitigate this crisis that has a ripple effect down the entire supply chains, disrupting country's global trade; and
- (d) the other problems facing country's shipping industry?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) (i) The government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to allay the problem. The efforts are spearheaded by an inter disciplinary task force which consists of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Railways, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and stakeholders like the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO). The task force after considerable stakeholder consultation, is taking coordinated action on identified tracks including pressing additional shipping/container capacity into service including enhanced import of empty containers by shipping lines to the country, improved operational planning by facilitating close coordination between exporters and shipping lines, release of abandoned/detained /seized containers, increasing duty free stay of containers, freight discounts for empty repositioning by Railways, measures to improve the turnaround times of containers through tracking and monitoring of dwell times so as to effectively enhance availability of containers, seeking out possible ways to promote use of bulk/break-bulk movement by exporters as compared to containerized movement wherever feasible.

(ii) Regular interaction with the Shipping Lines and their association has resulted in increasing the availability of the number of empty imported (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 SCI has also diverted one 4500 TEUs container ship 'SCI Chennai' engaged in Coastal trade to EXIM trade from 03.10.2021.

(iii) The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) had issued an Advisory vide Circular No. 26 of 2021 dated 14.09.2021 to the shipping lines freight forwarders / Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers (NVOCCs) / Multimodal Transport Operator (MTOs) / Customs House Agent (CHA) operating in India advising not to levy any special priority charges for according any priority to the containers. Shipping lines and freight forwarders / NVOCCs / MTOs / CHAs were also asked to bring this to the attention of the EXIM trade.

(iv) Government of India is not involved in fixing freight rates and thus, the same is not maintained. However, information as available with Container Shipping Lines Association (India) (CSLA), regarding market rate levels (in USD) of the last two calendar years i.e. January 2020 to December, 2021 is as below.

The average market rates levels for India - North Europe base ports effective from January 2020 to January 2022 (in USD):

	North India		South India		East India	
Jan-20	700-800	900-950	500-550	750-850	600-650	750-800
Feb-20	875-925	1150-1200	500-550	750-900	600-650	750-800
Mar-20	900-1150	1000-1450	550-650	800-900	600-650	750-800
Apr-20	950-1050	1100-1300	600-650	850-925	650-700	900-950
May-20	850-950	1000-1100	550-600	750-850	600-650	750-800
Jun-20	850-900	1000-1100	550-600	750-850	600-650	750-800
Jul-20	800-850	950-1000	600-650	800-900	600-700	900-950
Aug-20	850-900	1050-1100	700-800	950-1000	650-700	850-950
Sep-20	850-900	1050-1100	700-800	950-1000	650-700	850-950
Oct-20	1050-1100	1100-1200	700-800	950-1000	650-700	850-950
Nov-20	1300-1350	1700-1800	600-700	850-900	650-700	850-950
Dec-20	1500-1600	1900-2100	1450-1600	1900-2300	1450-1500	1900-2100
Jan-21	1600-1800	2300-2500	1600-1800	2300-2500	1800-1850	2300-2500
Feb-21	1850-2100	2600-2900	1900-2200	2700-3200	1900-2000	2700-2900
Mar-21	2200-2400	3100-3250	2150-2300	3100-3300	1900-2000	2700-2900
Apr-21	2200-2400	3100-3250	2150-2300	3100-3300	2100-2300	3300-3400
May-21	2300-2400	3150-3250	2150-2400	3200-3400	2500-2700	3700-4100
Jun-21	2300-2400	3250-3400	2300-2500	3400-3600	2550-2700	3400-3600



Jul-21	2850-3200	3650-3900	2800-3000	3800-4100	3000-3100	4000-4200
Mid-Aug ' 21	4400-5200	5200-5800	4800-5300	5700-6200	4200-5100	5000-5800
Sep-21	5900-6100	5600-6100	4800-5300	5700-6200	5500-6100	5300-6100
Oct-21	4800-5800	4800-5800	5500-6100	5500-6100	5200-5500	5200-5500
Nov-21	4800-5800	5800-6700	5500-6100	6400-7300	5200-5500	5800-6800
Dec-21	4700-5300	5800-6200	5600-5700	6400-6800	5200-5500	5800-6500
Jan-22	4700-5300	5800-6300	5600-5700	6400-6800	5200-5500	5800-6500

The average market rates level for INDIA - USA effective from JAN 2020 TO JAN 2022 (in USD) :

MONTHS / LOCATION	NORTHWEST INDIA				SOUTHEAST INDIA			
	USEC BASEPORTS		USWC BASEPORTS		USEC BASEPORTS		USWC BASEPORTS	
	20'FT	40'FT	20'FT	40'FT	20'FT	40'FT	20'FT	40'FT
Jan-20	\$1,650	\$2,100	\$1,750	\$2,100	\$1,800	\$2,300	\$1,750	\$2,150
Feb-20	\$1,800	\$2,350	\$1,750	\$2,100	\$1,850	\$2,450	\$1,750	\$2,150
Mar-20	\$2,000	\$2,600	\$1,700	\$2,000	\$2,050	\$2,700	\$1,750	\$2,050
Apr-20	\$2,000	\$2,600	\$1,700	\$2,000	\$2,050	\$2,700	\$1,750	\$2,050
May-20	\$2,050	\$2,600	\$1,650	\$1,900	\$1,950	\$2,600	\$1,700	\$1,950
Jun-20	\$2,050	\$2,600	\$1,650	\$1,900	\$1,950	\$2,600	\$1,700	\$1,950
Jul-20	\$2,150	\$2,700	\$1,900	\$2,300	\$2,150	\$2,800	\$1,950	\$2,350
Aug-20	\$2,350	\$3,000	\$2,100	\$2,500	\$2,350	\$3,000	\$2,100	\$2,550
Sep-20	\$2,550	\$3,300	\$2,200	\$2,600	\$2,750	\$3,500	\$2,200	\$2,650
Oct-20	\$2,800	\$3,600	\$2,500	\$2,900	\$3,200	\$4,100	\$2,550	\$3,000
Nov-20	\$3,000	\$3,800	\$2,700	\$3,100	\$3,450	\$4,400	\$2,700	\$3,150
Dec-20	\$3,100	\$4,000	\$2,800	\$3,300	\$3,600	\$4,600	\$2,800	\$3,350

MONTHS / LOCATION	NORTHWEST INDIA				SOUTHEAST INDIA			
	USEC BASEPORTS		USWC BASEPORTS		USEC BASEPORTS		USWC BASEPORTS	
	20'FT	40'FT	20'FT	40'FT	20'FT	40'FT	20'FT	40'FT
Jan-21	\$3,400	\$4,400	\$3,300	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$4,900	\$3,300	\$4,000
Feb-21	\$4,000	\$5,100	\$4,300	\$5,100	\$4,500	\$5,600	\$4,300	\$5,200
Mar-21	\$4,300	\$5,500	\$4,500	\$5,500	\$4,700	\$5,800	\$4,500	\$5,500
Apr-21	\$4,800	\$6,100	\$5,000	\$6,100	\$5,200	\$6,400	\$5,000	\$6,100
May-21	\$4,800	\$6,100	\$5,000	\$6,100	\$5,200	\$6,400	\$5,000	\$6,100
Jun-21	\$5,000	\$6,350	\$5,500	\$6,700	\$5,400	\$6,650	\$5,500	\$6,700
Jul-21	\$6,000	\$7,550	\$6,500	\$8,000	\$6,400	\$7,850	\$6,500	\$8,000
Aug-21	\$6,500	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$8,500	\$7,000	\$8,600	\$7,000	\$8,500
Sep-21	\$7,500	\$9,300	\$8,200	\$10,100	\$8,000	\$9,900	\$8,200	\$10,100
Oct-21	\$8,400	\$10,300	\$9,000	\$11,200	\$8,800	\$10,900	\$9,000	\$11,200
Nov-21	\$8,200	\$10,300	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$8,800	\$10,900	\$9,000	\$11,200
Dec-21	\$8,200	\$10,300	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$8,800	\$10,900	\$9,000	\$11,200



Jan-22	\$8,400	\$10,400	\$9,100	\$11,300	\$8,900	\$11,000	\$9,000	\$11,200
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(d) The Covid Pandemic resulted in imposition of restrictions by various administrations around the world with respect to ship calls, quarantine period and crew change.

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