

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 311**  
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2025

**TRENDS IN CARGO WEIGHT AND SIZE**

311. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

- (a) the evolving trends in cargo weights and sizes, across the major ports under its jurisdiction, and how they compare with the global standards, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Ministry to modernize and strengthen the physical infrastructure, including berths, jetties, and cargo handling facilities, at the major ports to accommodate the increasing weights and dimensions of incoming vessels and cargo; and
- (c) whether any initiatives are being undertaken to strengthen the multimodal and last-mile connectivity of ports, if so, the port-wise details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) The cargo handled at Major Ports has increased from 581.34 Million Tonnes in 2014-15 to 819.23 Million Tonnes in FY 2023-24, a CAGR of 3.5 % which is comparable to global standards. During 2023-24, the cargo handled consisted of 33.80% liquid bulk, 44.04% dry bulk, and 22.16% container cargo. Infrastructure development and capacity augmentation of Major Ports is a continuous process. It involves the 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. Further, Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra has been approved to be developed as the mega container port in the country catering the requirement of handling new generation mega size container vessels.

(c) Based on consultation with Major Ports, State Maritime Boards, Ministry of Railway and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, 107 road and rail connectivity infrastructure gaps for major and non-major ports have been identified and included in the Comprehensive Port Connectivity Plan (CPCP) prepared by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in September 2022. These projects aim to enhance connectivity between ports and domestic production / consumption centres.

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