

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir. However, general increase in freight rate to the tune of US\$ 525 per 20' container, US\$ 700 per 40 container and US\$ 790 per 40' high cube container has been announced with effect from 1st May, 2003. The freight increase is being taken on the existing freight level, which may vary from commodity to commodity and from shipping line to shipping line.

(b) Freight rates are determined by an interplay of market forces.

(c) to (e) The imports and exports of the country depend upon a number of factors including freight rates. It is too early to project the impact on our exports to America due to increased freight rates as the rates have just been revised.

#### **Cargo movement in ports**

4596. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent war between US and Iraq has affected the cargo movement in various ports including Kandla port;

(b) if so, whether in the Kandla port, cargo including rice, granite blocks and agricultural commodities chartered to Jeddah, Iran and Yemen have been affected;

(c) if so, the total loss suffered due to these operations in ports;

(d) the steps being taken to implement the commitments made before war; and

(e) how much has been spoiled due to delay in operations in these ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) The recent war in Iraq has had no perceptible impact on the movement of cargo in various ports including Kandla

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Revision of guidelines for private sector investment in major ports**

4597. DR. M.N. DAS :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

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SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have decided to revise guidelines for private sector entry into the major port sector;
- (b) if so, whether any meeting of stake holder in this sector was convened;
- (c) if so, whether any programme of action has been prepared;
- (d) if so, the details of specific additional concessions/incentives now proposed to make private sector entry into major ports more investor friendly; and
- (e) the difficulties experienced in implementing the joint venture policy for major ports, announced about five years ago in 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) As part of an exercise to speed up the decision making process and further private sector investment in development of major ports, the Government has undertaken a review of the existing guidelines on private sector participation in major ports with a view to updating and if necessary, revising them and issue a consolidated set of guidelines on the subject.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter is under process.

(e) No difficulty in implementing the guidelines on formation of joint ventures by major ports has come to the notice of the Government. However participation in the development of major ports by the private sector on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis or by taking the existing assets of the port on lease is preferred, which cater to the needs of the major ports to a substantial extent. The scope for formation of joint ventures by major ports is, therefore, limited.

**Proposal for replacement of old ships by SCI**

4598. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government propose to replace the ageing ships;
- (b) if so, the number of ships with the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI);
- (c) how many of these are being replaced; and
- (d) the details and the cost involved in the acquisition of new ships ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Shipping