

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4139
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2015
Stevedores and Cargo Handling Agents
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the process and criteria prescribed for appointment/engagement of stevedores and Cargo Handling Agents in various ports in the country;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the alleged violations of relevant Acts/Rules including the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 by various port authorities in such appointments/engagements during the last three years and the current years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;
- (d) The details of provisions regarding collection of royalty/revenue sharing from Stevedores and Cargo Handling Agents; and
- (e) whether any case of alleged irregularities in sharing of royalty/revenue with the respective ports has come to the notice during the said period and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a)to(e):Presently, the Major Ports appoint Stevedores in accordance with the Stevedoring Regulations which include provision for licensing stevedores. Stevedoring Licenses are issued by the Ports in case the firm fulfills the criteria, namely a Company registered under the Companies Act or a partnership firm or any other legal entity. The Ports issue licenses to the contractors/agents who undertake shore handling activities on behalf of Importers/Exporters. The licenses issued to cargo handling agents are generally in nature of permits.

Representations have been received that a mechanism to collect Revenue Share/ Royalty from Stevedores/ Cargo Handling Agents (CHA) should be devised by the Major Ports and the charges collected by the Stevedores/CHAs from their clients should be regulated by Tariff Authority of Major Ports (TAMP).

The Government has introduced a revised policy for Stevedoring and Shore Handling activities in Major Ports. The Major Ports shall go for an open and transparent auction system based on the TAMP notified tariff to give licenses for Stevedoring and Shore Handling revenue sharing basis for a period of 3 years. All eligible applicants who are ready to match the highest revenue share shall be given licenses. The Stevedoring and Shore Handling Agents have to charge the rates from their principals, not exceeding the ceiling tariffs notified by TAMP.
