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Title: Need to exempt Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal in Kochi, Kerala from Cabotage Law.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): The Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal , which is considered to become a big boon for the Cochin Port , has now a stagnant terminal with the Cabotage law adversely affecting the functioning of the terminal. Ships with bulk capacity is not getting enough cargo and cannot economically operate from Cochin Port. In these circumstances, many shipping companies find Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal as uneconomical and as such trying to avoid this Terminal.

The Cochin Port, one of the major ports in India was operating on profit and the Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal was making profit by the container handling for products reaching from far and near of Kerala. It is understood, the terms agreed with Dubai Ports Ltd. (DP World) who are the promoters of Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal include the operating rights for Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal also. Now, the Cochin Port is struggling to survive, while the Singapore and Colombo ports are flourishing. It is high time the Govt. intervene in this matter urgently and amend the rules, if any, which cause hindrance to the growth of Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal.