

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Monthly Summary for the month of October, 2024

A. Inter-Ministerial consultations prolonged matters:

1. Filling up of certain key posts

The posts of two Chairpersons (JN Port Authority and Mumbai Port Authority) are vacant and need to be filled up as also the posts of Deputy Chairpersons of the Port Authorities of Cochin and Tuticorin. The process in the case of the chairpersons began last year and is yet to be completed.

2. Ship Building, Financing and ownership

Proposals for strengthening the ship building, financing and ownership ecosystem in India have been under discussion with several ministries over the last few months. Multiple presentations on the subject have also been made and many meetings conducted during which clarifications sought have been provided. A CoS meeting was also held by Cabinet Secretary in July this year. Finality on the above is yet to be reached. So also a decision regarding infrastructure status to shipping remains pending.

3. Rationalisation of Freight charges for Short haul coal traffic:

In 2021 Ministry of Railways (MoR) was requested to consider rationalisation in freight charges for short haul coal cargo (less than 200 Km) which are currently prohibitive compared to road freight. This is leading to ports having to resort to road transport of coal which is environmentally unsustainable.

B. Other Matters/Significant Developments:

1. PPP Projects proposals approved during October, 2024:

- 'Mechanization of CQ-III berth for handling dry bulk cargo on captive basis at Paradip Port' at an estimated cost of Rs. 451 Crore having design capacity of 10 MTPA.
- Development of concrete jetty and other facilities for liquid cargo handling at Budge Budge, SPM Port. Kolkata on DBFOT basis through PPP mode, at an estimated cost of Rs. 174 Crore

2. Productivity Linked Reward (PLR) Scheme: Cabinet, vide meeting dated 03.10.2024, approved the proposal for the New PLR scheme for the Major port and Dock employees for payment of PLR from the year 2020-21 to 2025-26. This decision of the Government has benefited more than 20,000 Major Port officers and employees.

3. SCI MOU with Qatar (Milaha Group): Qatar Shipping Company W.L.L (QShip), and SCI signed an agreement on 10.10.2024, followed by a non-binding MoU on 21.10.2024 valid for three years. The MoU provides for a collaboration to use SCI-owned crude oil tanker as a Floating Storage and Offloading (FSO) unit and also for avenues to explore other mutually beneficial ventures, including potential opportunities in LPG shipping.
