



30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 /16694

**Shri Mansukh Mandaviya**

Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Shipping  
Ministry of Shipping  
Government of India  
New Delhi.

**Natubhai Patel**  
President

**Hemant N. Shah**  
Sr. Vice President

**K. I. Patel**  
Vice President

**Pathik S. Patwari**  
Hon. Secretary

**V. P. Vaishnav**  
Hon. Secretary (R)

**Sachin K. Patel**  
Hon. Treasurer

Respected Sir,

**Sub: Development of Coastal Shipping in Gujarat- Difficulties faced with respect to The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI)**

Greetings from Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI).

Sir, the state of Gujarat offers ample opportunities for development of coastal shipping due to its large coastline and presence of many large and medium-sized ports. A wide range of industrial Products such as Ceramic Tiles , Sanitary Wares, Soda Ash , Industrial Salt , Fertilizers, Steel Coils, farm products such as cotton bales, wheat, rice, groundnuts, De-oil-Cakes, minerals such as bentonite, chalk powder, bauxite are transported to markets in South India and East India using coastal shipping. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi has always given priority to the growth and development of Coastal Shipping and Inland waterways.

Sir, you will appreciate that The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) plays a critical role in the growth and development of coastal shipping and there is lot of expectation from the National Carrier to provide able support and play a leading role in development of Gujarat. However, we would like to draw your kind attention to some issues faced with respect to SCI due to which the growth of the sector is getting hampered:

**1. Call to major ports missing:**

There is only 1 ship currently operating on East Coast out of the two ships of SCI and that is also Chartered. It is always under breakdown and does not give regular service, as a result of which business suffers. SCI does not call on major ports like Porbandar, Hazira, Mumbai, Goa, Mangalore, Krishnapatnam, Kakinada, Vishakhapatnam, Pradip and therefore the important markets remain unserved.

**2. Suddenly closed East Coast Service**

Even though the quantum of business generated from the East Coast is high and is growing, SCI has suddenly diverted one ship out of its two ships to Maldives. There is an urgent need to restore this service.

**3. No service to Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka**



In spite of Government of India policies giving top priority to promote business with the neighbouring countries, SCI does not have service to Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

#### 4. Need to restore service to Haldia and Katupalli Port

A large number of Soda Ash containers amounting to almost Rs. 26 crores have been held up due to sudden stoppage of service to Haldia and Katupalli Port while these goods were in transit. It is therefore requested that the service to these ports should be restored at the earliest.

#### 5. Need to add 20 feet high Cube Containers to the SCI Fleet

In keeping with the market demand for new generation containers, there is an urgent need to add around 3000 numbers of 20 feet high Cube Containers so that business is not lost due to its non-availability.

Sir, we request you to consider the above suggestions positively for development of the coastal shipping sector in Gujarat and in the larger interest of the country's growth and development.

With Regards,

Sincerely,

**Natubhai Patel**  
**President**

**Copy to:**

**The Chairman and Managing Director**  
Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.  
Mumbai.

**Natubhai Patel**  
President

**Hemant N. Shah**  
Sr. Vice President

**K. I. Patel**  
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