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Standard Operating Procedures: Shore Electric Power Supply to Ships in Indian Ports

1. Maritime transport emits about 1 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide annually (UNCTAD) and is responsible for about 2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions apart from NO_x and SO_x emissions. As per various estimates, the share of shipping in global nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides emissions from anthropogenic sources is about 15% and 7% respectively.
2. Ships normally use some base-load electricity levels for essential services (hoteling, unloading and loading activities) all the time, including while at berth. While in port, these ships use their own diesel engines to produce electricity. For a typical mid-size tanker, the electric load required is about 400 kW (excluding the electricity needed for cargo operations and ballast operations) at any given time. For such a tanker staying at port for 30 hours, it would require 12 MWh of electricity. Generating this power on-board, apart from creating noise pollution, pollute the ports, coastal and hinterland regions by emitting sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter along with black carbon. The pollution can be significant considering the number of ships in a port at any given time.
3. In 2016-2017 about more than 22,000 ships berthed at 12 major ports across India. The average size of ships which touched major ports was 36000 GT and with an average turn around time of 3.43 days, that is, about 80 hrs.
4. India has 12 major and 200 intermediate ports under various state governments. Cargo traffic in India is expected to rise to 2500MT by 2024-25 from about 1100MT in 2015-16 and accordingly the number of ships touching Indian ports is expected to double by 2025. The recent thrust on coastal cargo movement will be a further addition to this number of ships touching Indian ports. This projected growth of ships visiting Indian ports is an indicator of the socio-economic cost to be borne by India in future, if no measures to control pollution in ports is undertaken on an urgent basis.
5. The Ministry of Shipping “Green Port” project is an initiative in reducing air and noise pollution in major ports of India. To add to this initiative, the Honorable Minister of Shipping has directed the directorate general of shipping to explore the possibility of providing shore power from national grid to visiting ships in Indian ports.