

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ  
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**RS passes  
bill to provide  
autonomy to  
govt ports**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

11/2/21  
New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Major Port Authorities Bill, which seeks to provide greater autonomy and flexibility to ports under the central government by creating a Board of Major Port Authority for each such entity and replacing the existing port trusts. The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha last year.

This is for the first time a bill was put to a division during the pandemic when restrictions are in place for the seating arrangement of members. But before the bill was passed with 84 members supporting the bill and 44 voting against it, most of the opposition parties targetted the government and alleged the move was aimed at preparing the ground to benefit big corporates. RJD leader Manoj Jha said, "This is a very transparent government. Just by looking at the bill you can make out who is behind this. It's an amazing art of its own to find out who will be the beneficiary when you go through a bill."

Port and shipping minister Mansukh Mandaviya rejected such charges saying "PM Modi is friend of all Indians". Mandaviya said his two predecessors, late Arun Jaitley and Nitin Gadkari have made it clear that no major port will be privatised and he was the third one to make this commitment to Parliament. The minister said there was need to give autonomy to run ports to give full freedom to take commercial decisions so that they can compete with private ports.