

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3595
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
POLLUTION IN SEA
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that private ships and tankers have sunk in the sea territory of India and a large quantity of crude oil has polluted the sea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the number of pollution control ships possessed by India at present and the action being taken by them to check the rising pollution in the sea territory of India ;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted a Committee on monitoring of oil spilled in the sea;
- (e) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report/recommendations; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) & (b) As per information furnished by Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, two private ships/tankers are reported to have sunk during 2006 in the sea off Indian waters and small quantity of oil had spilled in the sea, which was effectively neutralized by the Coast Guard. The details in this respect are enclosed at the Annexure.
- (c) The Coast Guard being the Central Coordinating Agency has various pollution control equipments fitted on the vessels for pollution control operations. At present, no dedicated pollution control vessel exists in the country. The Coast Guard is in the process of acquiring three pollution control vessels which are expected to be inducted in the Coast Guard within next three years.
- (d) to (f) An Inter-Ministerial Committee to review the progress of long term measures for oil spill management for India, has been constituted in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India .The Committee in its first meeting has recommended creation of facilities for handling Tier- III spills by the Coast Guard, besides constitution of a committee to draft Policy Document addressing preventive, mitigation, preparedness and response measures and examination of the existing legislations dealing with relevant areas in oil spill management. The committee to draft the Policy Document as recommended has been constituted.