

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1980

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006

DISAPPEARANCE OF EXPLOSIVES FROM A MERCHANT NAVY SHIP

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Mollah Shri Hannan;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 100 tonnes of explosives meant for blasting rocks and mountains in Afghanistan disappeared from a merchant navy ship as reported in The Times of India dated December 29, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the security agencies have succeeded in recovering the said explosives; and
- (f) if so, the security measures proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such incidents and to ensure that the explosives do not reach wrong hands?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) & (b) On December 22, 2005, M.V. Eugenia, a Honduras registered ship sailed from Mumbai with a cargo of 105.753 metric tones of explosives stuffed in 6 containers meant for Border Road Organization Projects in Afghanistan. On the night of December 22, one container kept on the deck fell into the sea at Mumbai coast by tilting of the ship due to bad weather. On December 23 night while the ship was coming back to Mumbai port, rest of the 5 containers slipped into the sea.
- (c) Two enquiries – one by the Mercantile Marine Department of DG(Shipping) (MMD) and the other by the Director General of Police, Maharashtra are in progress.
- (d) As per the provisional findings of the inquiry conducted by the Mercantile Marine Department(MMD) the containers fell overboard as these were improperly and inadequately lashed.
- (e) & (f) Four of the six containers have been lifted from the sea-bed and sent to the supplier of the explosives at Hyderabad. Efforts are on by the naval authorities to locate the remaining two containers expeditiously so that they do not reach wrong hands. As regards security measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents, Maritime Administration in consultation with Ministry of Defence will take necessary action on the basis of finding of the enquiry by MMD.