

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3088
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
DISAPPEARANCE OF MARINE ENGINEERS
Paswan Shri Virchandra;Pathak Shri Brajesh

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

- (a) whether the marine engineers had gone missing while on duty as reported in The Navbharat Times dated October 20, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are aware of the names of the shipping companies, whose marine engineers have disappeared or become victims of death during the last three years till date;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken/propose to take any action against these shipping companies after conducting inquiry at the Central level;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The following marine engineers have gone missing/disappeared while on duty and as reported in The Navbharat Times dated 20th October, 2005

- 1. Shri Ashu Mallick
- 2. Shri R. Ali Zahdi
- 3. Shri Inderjeet Singh
- 4. Shri Hasan Zaheer
- 5. Shri Gautam Mallick

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The names of the Shipping Companies whose marine engineers have been reported to have disappeared or have become victims of death during last three years (2003 to 2005) are as below:

Year 2003

- 1. Shipping Corporation of India
- 2. Anglo Eastern Ship Management Ltd Hong Kong

Year 2004

- 1. Pratibha Shipping

Year 2005

1. Shipping Corporation of India
2. Great Eastern Shipping Company
3. Jupiter Ship Management Inc. Majuro, Marshall Islands
4. MSC Ship Management (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
5. Executive Ship Management Pvt Ltd, Singapore

(e) to (g) In the incidents reported in Indian waters involving Indian vessels, the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai invariably carries out preliminary inquiry. In the course of such inquiry when it appears that death has been caused on board the ship by violence or other improper means, immediate steps are taken for bringing the offender to trial in accordance with Section 452 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. Indian Maritime Administration, however, has no jurisdiction in cases where the casualties occur in foreign waters and on board foreign flag vessel for conduct of inquiry / investigation. Even in such cases, the matter is always taken up with the flag state as and when an Indian crew-member is reported to be missing or involved in an accident on board a foreign flag vessel in foreign waters. Details of the action taken by the Indian Maritime Administration are at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (e) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3088.

Following actions against individuals / shipping companies, whose marine engineers have been reported missing, has been initiated by the Indian Maritime Administration:

Shipping Corporation of India

(i) One Engine Room petty officer was reported missing from ship M.T. Havildar Abdul Hameed PVC on 3.07.2003 when the vessel was at RAVVA Oil Field Anchorage – East Coast of India. The investigation was conducted by the Shipping Master, Kolkata on 7.7.2003. After due analysis of the statements of the crew and the logbook entries the inquiry officer concluded that the reason for disappearance of Mr. A. Arun Kumar could not be established.

(ii) One-Third Engineer died as a result of boiler explosion on board M.T. Basaveshwara on 27.05.2005 when the vessel was at New Mangalore. The inquiry report indicates that the engineer died due to back firing of boiler, which was the result of poor maintenance. Suspension of certificate proceedings has been initiated against Master, Chief Engineer, Second Engineer and Fourth Engineer. The owners have been directed to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the concerned Superintendent responsible for maintenance of the vessel. It was also recommended that a warning letter should be issued to the concerned Dy. General Manager, In-charge of the ship. Great Eastern Shipping Company With regard to killing of Second Engineer by Fourth Engineer on board M.T. Jag Leela, M/s. Great Eastern Shipping Co. Ltd., the owners, has taken up matter with police authorities for investigation as ordered by the Directorate. It is reported that Fourth Engineer is under judicial custody in Mumbai and criminal proceedings have been initiated against him. Pratibha Shipping In the case of Chief Engineer Shri M. Patwardhan on board M.T. Cauvery owned by Pratibha Shipping the inquiry report indicated that Shri M. Patwardhan lost his life due to falling over board, while he was working on deck without taking adequate safety measures. A Merchant Shipping Notice highlighting the incident was issued to the maritime fraternity so that seafarers could be made aware and similar incidents do not reoccur. MSC Ship Management India Pvt Ltd. Shri Hasan Zaheer, a Marine Engineer had reportedly jumped over board when the vessel MSC Carmen, under Panama Flag, was en route to Mombassa on 12 October 2005. The Flag State Authority was requested by the Indian Maritime Administration to conduct investigation into the casualty. In the enquiry report submitted by the Flag State it has been indicated that there was an eye witness on board who saw Shri Hasan Zaheer jumping over board from port side poop deck (aft left hand side of the vessel). Indian manning agent is MSC Ship Management (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. The reasons for jumping over board could not be ascertained by the flag state authorities. Anglo Eastern Ship management Ltd Hong Kong A fatal accident on board M.V. Federal Kivalina of Hong Kong flag involving Mr. Rajesh Digambar Jamnik, Chief Engineer and Mr. Dilip Kumar Srivastav was reported to have occurred on 14.02.2003. The marine department of Hong Kong has in its report stated that the most probable cause of the accident was due to inhalation of a toxic gas prevailing in the area of the work place. Jupiter Ship management Inc. Majuro, Marshall Islands

Jupiter – 6 was owned by above-mentioned company. This vessel was towing m.v. Pointing (unmanned) ex MV Satsung from West Coast of Africa and bound for Alang, India. There is no contact with the vessel since 5th September 2005. The vessel is reportedly missing from position 35.52.06 S 023. 25.9 E along with 10 Indians and 3 Ukrainians. Palican Shipping & Engineering Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai is the manning agent of Jupiter 6. The matter was taken up with the MRCC Cape Town who have reported that MV Satsung was spotted adrift by MV Poseidon. On orders from the South African Government she was reconnected to SMIT AMANDLA on 7th October, 2005. The tow was passed on 10th October, 2005 from SMIT AMANDLA to the tug Ruby Deliverer which has now arrived in India on 28th November, 2005 for demolition. Surveyor-in-charge of the Mercantile Marine Department at Jamnagar has carried out a fact finding inquiry from the crew of the vessel that finally towed MV Satsang. The inquiry report is awaited.

Executive Ship Management Pvt. Ltd.

Shri Mitesh Kumar, 3rd Officer, employed on MT North Challenge, Flag Panama, found missing on 14.10.2005 when the vessel was en route from Acajutla (El Salvador) to San Francisco, USA. At the request of the Indian Maritime Administration the Indian Consulate at San Francisco has carried out investigations into the incident. The US investigating Agency (Customs & Border Protection, US department of Homeland Security) has also boarded the vessel on 20th October, 2005. Enquiry reports from both the authorities are, however, awaited.