

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2134
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
BREACH OF LAW BY FOREIGN VESSELS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether many foreign ships come in and get out of Indian waters without seeking permission as reported in the Times of India dated January 26, 2007;
- (b) if so, the fact of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether Norwegian Ship sought permission from the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) to clean its tank and after getting permission, the ship was moved out of the inner anchorage area for three years and sneaked out of Indian waters; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government against such shipping companies/ countries for violating the Indian Law?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): No foreign ship can enter or move out of an Indian Ports without clearances from the Port and Custom authorities. The Norwegian vessel "Crystal Sea" referred in "Times of India" dated 26th January, 2007 remained in the Mumbai Port limits between 31.10.2006 and 19.01.2007. The Vessel was issued clearance by the Custom Authorities to proceed to Mumbai High on 19.01.2007 valid upto 22.01.2007 and also obtained port clearance before sailing out on 19.1.2007. No permission, was sought by the vessel for cleaning its tanks. Since all port dues and charges were paid and there was no arrest order from any court in India and also the documents were in order, the vessel was allowed to sail out of the Port.