

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1563

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007

MARINE CASUALTIES

Oram Shri Jual;Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing number of marine casualties in the country;
- (b) if so, the detail of such casualties reported and rescue operations undertaken in each case during the last three years, till date, year-wise;
- (c) the factors responsible for such casualties;
- (d) the details of the ship sunk in Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea during this year; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such casualties?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The details of marine casualties and rescue operations undertaken during the last three years are given at Annex-1.

(c): There have been various factors. Generally the accidents have been caused due to defective hull, machinery or equipment, human failure, work and family related stress in ship board environment.

(d): The details of ships sunk in Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea during this year are given at Annex-I(c).

(e): (i) The lessons learnt from the casualties are shared with stake holders through casualties circular and presentations. The corrective measures are also taken by reviewing training and assessment. Where required the regulatory regime, search and rescue, environmental protection and salvage is reviewed to ensure safer operation of vessels. Disciplinary action is also initiated against those found guilty within our jurisdiction. For others the matter is reported to the concerned flag state.

(ii) In the aftermath of recent casualties during this monsoon, the following immediate steps have been taken to prevent such casualties:

(a) Operational guidelines for ships calling Indian ports have been issued to all ports and other concerned stakeholders as part of interim preventive measure.

(b) Flag State control for Indian registered OSVs (Offshore Supply Vessels) has been made stringent and ship owners of OSVs are advised to complete inspection OSVs of 15 years and above by Mercantile Marine Departments/Indian Register of Shipping to ascertain their structural fitness at first arrival of Indian port or within two months.

(c) IRS/MMDS are directed to inspect old ships calling Indian ports with special attention to ships classed with non IACS (International Association of Classification Societies) members.

(iii) The following steps are proposed to be taken to prevent such casualties:

(a) To approach International Maritime Organization (IMO) to instruct all flag states and ship owners not to ply vessels of over 25 years of age in Indian territorial water (ITW) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) specially during south west monsoon.

(b) Port State control (PSC) inspection and flag state inspection to be stepped up and all vessels calling Indian ports to be carefully inspected especially older vessels.