

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1654
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011
CLEANING OF MANGROVES
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the mangroves of several hectares caught oil soaked due to collision of two ships at Mumbai coast caused environmental degradation recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to clean the oil soaked mangroves and sought adequate compensation from the ship owners;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f): As per information provided by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, the Ministry of Shipping and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), approximately 1200 cubic meter of fuel oil had spilled into the sea following collision of two ships MSC Chitra and MV Khalijia III in the Mumbai Harbour. The oil spill had led to formation of tar balls along the coast line, affecting mangroves. The Govt. of Maharashtra and the Mumbai Port Trust have taken steps for cleaning up of the coast. However, it has been reported by NEERI that mangroves plants cannot be easily cleaned by physical/chemical methods as they can lead to further damage to mangroves. The Govt. of Maharashtra has sought a relief of Rupees three crores from the Ship Owners of MSC Chitra out of which Rupees one crore has been received. The D.G. Shipping is co-ordinating the cleaning operations.