

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:153

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

COLLISION OF NAVAL SHIP WITH MERCHANT SHIP

Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa;Pal Shri Jagdambika

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Indian Navy warship INS Vindhyagiri has recently sunk near Mumbai Harbour after collision with a foreign merchant ship;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the loss of lives and property therein;
- (c) the details of oil spill and the steps taken to contain threat to the flora and fauna in the area as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the incident and if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty; and
- (e) the likely impact of this incident on the naval surveillance system?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 153 FOR ANSWER ON 7.3.2011

On account of collision between the merchant vessel MV Nordlake which was leaving Mumbai harbour from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Indian Naval warship INS Vindhyagiri which was entering the harbour on 30th January 2011, fire and flooding was reported in the naval warship. No loss of life occurred in the incident as additional personnel from INS Vindhyagiri were immediately disembarked using naval ferries and other boats. After the collision the ship was assisted by Naval Tugs and brought inside Naval Dockyard. The firefighting and damage control efforts continued on Vindhyagiri till 31st January 2011 and in the process, the ship developed a list to port and came to rest on the seabed at her alongside berth in Naval Dockyard where the depth of water was about 9 meters. An anti pollution boom was positioned around the ship and all actions were taken to contain the minor oil spillage. The little oil that had spilled was collected and thereafter pumped into a sullage barge. As a result there has been no adverse effect on the environment. Navy has initiated the process of recovery and salvage of the ship. A Board of Inquiry (BOI) has been ordered on 31st January 2011 by the Indian Navy to carry out a detailed investigation into the circumstances leading to the collision. The reasons for the collision and details of damages sustained and losses suffered by Indian Navy will be established only on completion of the inquiry.