

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5217
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011
INS VIDHYAGIRI'S ACCIDENT
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any probe into the recent accident involving INS Vidhyagiri has been instituted;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the terms of reference of such a probe;
- (c) whether the probe has conveyed its conclusions regarding the causes of accident;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the time by which such report is likely to be submitted?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Shipping, through the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), is mandated to conduct Preliminary Inquiry into shipping casualty occurring on any Indian ship anywhere in the world and also for all shipping casualties occurring on the Indian coast under the provisions of Part XII of the M.S. Act, 1958, as amended. So, specific terms of reference are not required.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The details are as under:

(i) The collision between M.V. Nord Lake and INS Vidhyagiri (F42) was due to the casual attitude/negligence of on duty personnel of Vessel Traffic Management Systems(VTMS) at Mumbai Port Trust/ Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust(JNPT)/Navy, the JNPT pilots on Nordlake/Sea Eagle, and the Masters of M.V. Nordlake and INS Vidhyagiri. Timely reaction and pro-active action in the prevailing circumstances by the above entities could have averted this collision.

(ii) The eventual loss of the naval ship F42 was due to factors beyond collision. A bigger catastrophe like explosion in the war ship or closure of Port due to sinking in the channel was avoided due to the subsequent actions taken by the naval authorities.

(iii) The naval officials responsible for the navigation of naval ships were not familiar with the Mumbai shipping traffic or the working pattern of both the Ports.

(e): Does not arise.