

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1377  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011  
MARITIME POLLUTION  
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of difficulties being faced in prosecuting those responsible for incidents of maritime pollution; (b) if so, whether the Public Liability Insurance Act only provides paltry reimbursement to victims;
- (c) if so, whether the issue was taken up for review; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have provisions for taking action against those responsible for incidents of maritime pollution. This requires properly identifying persons/ships responsible for specific incidents of maritime pollution.

(b) to (d) The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 provides for immediate relief to persons affected by accidents occurring while handling of hazardous chemicals notified under the Act, on a "no fault basis". Only death or injury to persons other than workmen and damage to private property are covered under the Act. The maximum relief in case of death or injury is Rs.25,000/-, which is in addition to reimbursement of medical expenses up to a maximum of Rs. 12,500. The maximum relief for damage to private property is Rs. 6,000. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 also has provisions for compensation to the victims who suffers damage on account of oil spillage from oil tankers in Indian waters up to the Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 has been enacted for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons, property and for restoration of the environment.