

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7190
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012
CLEANING OF BEACHES
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the dumping of oil in mid-sea by ships has resulted in concentration of tar-balls onshore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ocean researchers have warned that prompt cleaning of the beaches needs to be done to avoid long term impact of tar-balls; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per information provided by the Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, tar-ball deposits are reported to occur worldwide. Concentrations of tar balls have been reported on the coast of Goa for last four years. Directorate General of Shipping had initiated an analysis for source apportionment of tar balls on coast of Goa through M/s National Environmental Engineering Research (NEERI), Nagpur. The analysis was completed in June, 2011. The study concluded that major source of tar balls is likely to be crude oil. However, its source cannot be confirmed. NEERI has recommended that tar ball analysis has to be carried out for subsequent years to further explore and confirm the likely sources of its formation.

(c) & (d) No such warnings has been received by the Director General Shipping.