

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3845  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012  
SAILING OF M.T. PRATIBHA CAUVERY  
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

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

- (a) whether some oil tankers including M.T. Pratibha Cauvery were permitted to sail though it was highly ill-maintained and not seaworthy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether some crew member died when they were forced to remain on the stranded ship for a month without food and water and under difficult weather conditions;
- (d) if so, the fact of the matter; and
- (e) the action taken against the officers responsible for the same and for violations of many provisions/guidelines in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): As reported by Directorate General of Shipping, no oil tanker, including M.T. Pratibha Cauvery was permitted to sail without valid certificate. In case of M.T. Pratibha Cauvery, the statutory certificates had expired on 01.10.2012. However, on 31.10.2012, a strong cyclonic storm ('Neelam') made landfall from Mahabalipuram. The vessel MT Pratibha Cauvery (31 years old) which was waiting for the supply of bunkers at the Chennai port anchorage in a position about 3 nautical miles from the nearest land, dragged her anchor and ran aground near Adyar Creek about 3.7 nautical miles from the Chennai port.

(c) to (e): 5 crew members of the ship died when they were trying to come to shore after the vessel got agrounded. Based on the preliminary enquiry into the incident, Mercantile Marine Department, Chennai, have been advised by the Directorate General, Shipping, to initiate proceedings for formal investigation under Section 360 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, to establish the underlying cause of the said shipping casualty and also the shortcomings of the parties concerned.