

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4097
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012
FERRY MISHAP IN ASSAM
Ajmal Shri Badruddin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of persons died in the Medartary ferry mishap in April this year, in Assam;
- (b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in the said mishap;
- (c) if so, the details of the findings thereof and the action taken against those found responsible therein; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check such mishaps?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (d): As per report received from the Government of Assam, in Medartary ferry mishap which took place on 30th April, 2012 altogether 49 (forty nine) persons died, Out of this dead bodies of 41 (forty one) persons could be recovered and identified. Ex-gratia grant of Rs. 3.50 lakh has been provided to the next of kin (NoK) of 41 identified victims. The State Government has constituted One Man Inquiry Committee headed by Addl. Chief Secretary to look into the issues. In the mean time, the Govt. of Assam has indicated the following precautionary measures to prevent such boats mishap:

- a) All the District Administrations have been instructed to constitute a 'Nodal Agency' headed by a Magistrate for monitoring ferry operations.
- b) Notice Boards are displayed in prominent places of ferry services to make the users aware about safe riverine journey.
- c) Notices are also published in the 'Daily News Papers' to make the public aware of safe riverine journey.
- d) 'Nowcasting' information system has been introduced at Guwahati, Dhubri and Jorhat with the active support from the Indian Meteorological Department to function during Monsoon period.
- e) Inland Water Transport Vigilance Cell is functioning to prevent plying of unauthorized mechanized boats with the active cooperation from the District Administration.