

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1247

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009

DISMANTLING OF FOREIGN SHIP

Acharia Shri Basudeb;Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Saroj Smt. Sushila

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ship-breaking yards of Alang have once again been hit by controversy following the anchoring of a ship from US allegedly laden with radioactive material at Bhavnagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought details on the ship that has come for dismantling at Alang which is allegedly carrying hazardous toxic substance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP)

(a)to(e): A passenger ship "Platinum-II" was anchored at Bhavnagar Anchoring Point on 6.10.2009 with the permission of the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB).The Union Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) had constituted a Central Technical Team to inspect and examine the ship, since it was alleged that the ship was carrying hazardous materials. The team inspected the ship and submitted its report on 26th October, 2009. As per the report, there are no hazardous and radio-active materials on board the ship in loose form or as cargo. However, hazardous materials like asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and radio-active materials are present in the ship as part of its structure.

2. It has been brought to the notice of the MoEF that the ship has violated the United States Toxic Substances Control Act (USTSCA) and an order has been passed by the United States Environment Protection Authority (USEPA) against the owners of the ship. There were also allegations that the ship has been brought into India with a falsified flag and registry.

3. Keeping in view the "Precautionary Principle", the MoEF has communicated to GMB that granting permission for beaching and breaking purpose of the ship will not be advisable.