

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3811
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
BOAT TRAGEDY
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a boat tragedy has been reported in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the last week of January, 2014;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of persons killed/injured therein;
- (c) whether an inquiry has been conducted in the causes of the tragedy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the safety measures/steps taken by the Government to avoid such type of tragedies in future?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A private tourist boat namely 'MV Aqua Marine' carrying 48 passengers and 2 crew members on board sank near Port Blair on 26.01.2014. In all, 22 persons died while 26 passengers and 2 crew members were rescued.

(c) to (e): Yes Madam. The UT of A&N Administration has intimated that a magisterial enquiry has been ordered to establish causes and violations, if any. An FIR has been registered under Section 304/34 of IPC. Four persons were arrested. The UT of A&N Administration has ordered safety audit of all tourist boats. Vessels are allowed to operate only after verification of their Status of registration and adherence to Safety Standards.