

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1385
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
MUSEUM ON DECOMMISSIONED INS VIKRANT
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently ordered for dismantling of the INS Vikrant;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the earlier project of converting the decommissioned INS Vikrant into a museum has been abandoned by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has received representations / memorandum from public representatives in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

- (a) & (b): INS Vikrant was approved for disposal as scrap in June 2013 in view of the deteriorating condition of the ship and the inability of Government of Maharashtra (GoM) to fund the proposal for conversion of the ship into a Maritime Museum.
- (c) & (d): The ship was decommissioned in January 1997. Government of Maharashtra (GoM) proposed to convert the ship into a Maritime Museum in November 1998 and Ministry of Defence approved free transfer of the ship to GoM in 1999. Government of India also constituted an Apex Coordination Committee (ACC) in 2005 to expedite the project of conversion of INS Vikrant into a museum. However after several meetings of the Committee, GoM indicated in December 2012 its inability to stay committed to the project.
- (e) Besides representations from Late Shri Gopinath Munde and Dr. D. Purandeshwari, letters from Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping and Dr. Kirit Somaiya, MP, have also been received. Ministry of Culture has been recently requested to examine the feasibility of converting the ship into a museum, subject to judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) regarding this matter.