

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
CLEARANCE FOR PLATINUM SHIP BREAKING AT ALANG .

3434

Shri Motilal Vora

Will the Minister of COAL AND ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Central Government has refused to give permission to beaching and breaking of platinum-2 ship brought from America to the Alang ship breaking yard in Gujarat;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the reasons for refusing permission has been assigned to presence of toxic and radioactive substances thereon which are hazardous to the environmental safety;
- (c) the ground on which the said ship was permitted to be brought to India;
- (d) whether documents were tampered with for bringing in this ship; and
- (e) if so, the action taken against the guilty.

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e): The passenger ship "Platinum-II" was anchored at Bhavnagar anchoring point on 6.10.2009 with the permission of the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) after necessary desk review by the authorities concerned. Subsequently, this Ministry has received complaints pertaining to falsified flag and registry of the ship and presence of hazardous substances. An inter-ministerial technical team was constituted to inspect the ship. As per the report submitted by this team, there are no hazardous and radio-active wastes 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. There are 653 smoke detectors and exit points in the ship containing radio-active materials as in-built structure of the ship. The team also estimated that approx. 238 MT of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) is present in the structure of the ship. A team of officers of Gujarat State Pollution Control Board inspected the ship on 10.10.2009 and estimated that about 20 MT of PCBs are present as in-built structure of the ship. In exercising the 'Precautionary Principle', this Ministry has communicated to GMB that granting permission for beaching and breaking purposes of the ship will not be advisable.