

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2220  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 20/03/2023

Ocean acidification due to oil refining activities

2220: SMT SANGEETA YADAV:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any detailed research study regarding the ocean acidification has been done by the Ministry/oil sector PSUs in Bombay High and surrounding areas near the sea oil refineries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by oil PSUs to arrest ocean acidification and its effect on marine bio-community in India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) to (c): Ocean acidification studies are specialized studies which require scientific manpower and specialized equipment/vessel for sample collection and analysis. Such specialized studies are not conducted by Oil and Gas PSUs. ONGC however carries out annual offshore Environment Monitoring studies in its operational areas of Bombay High since 1994. The latest Environmental Monitoring study conducted around Western Offshore Area of Mumbai has concluded that the oil exploration and developmental activities in Mumbai High have not caused any changes in the hydrographic regime of the water column so far. The report has indicated that Hydrographic parameters were governed by the general circulation pattern in the sea.

The PSU oil refineries near the sea have Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) for treatment of waste water. In most of the refineries, the treated effluent water is recycled back into cooling towers as make up water and not discharged into sea. The quality of water, which comes out as blow down from sea water cooling towers, meeting the stipulated norms is being discharged into the sea through separate channel with close monitoring by statutory bodies on a regular basis through sampling.

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