

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3631
ANSWERED ON- 03/04/2023

Oil spill

3631 Shri Masthan Rao Beeda:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure that spillage of oil by foreign and Indian vessels for importing oils to India is affecting marine life;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plans to protect marine life in case of an oil spill by a vessel carrying crude oil to India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) to (b): The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has informed that the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) is responsible for preventing and controlling oil pollution from ships, including foreign and Indian flag oil tankers. They implement international conventions such as Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), which provide detailed provisions on ship construction, equipment and operations to prevent and control oil pollution. The DGS has also notified and implemented the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Oil from Ships) Rules, 2010.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is the central coordinating Agency for Combating of Oil Pollution in the coastal and marine environment of various maritime zones. Furthermore, under Section 14 of the Coast Guard Act, 1978, the duties and functions of the ICG include protecting the marine environment and preventing and controlling marine pollution.

(c) to (d) The National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) has been prepared for responding to oil spill accidents. The NOS-DCP is a comprehensive tool, which provided framework of coordination of integrated response by various government departments and agencies to protect the environment from the deleterious effects of pollution by oil spillage. NOS-DCP is revised periodically to reflect current international norms and best practices, key relevant national regulations, experience gained and inputs received from stakeholders.
