

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1119
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2025

IMPACT OF SHIPWRECKS IN INDIAN WATERS

1119. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted an assessment of the impact on marine ecology and fishermen's livelihoods due to recent shipwrecks in Indian waters, if so, the findings thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government will announce a financial relief package for fishermen whose livelihoods were adversely affected by these incidents;
- (c) the mechanism to ensure transparent monitoring and timely compensation for all affected coastal communities after such maritime disasters; and
- (d) whether Government has taken concrete steps to secure compensation from MSC ELSA-3 and MV Wan Hai 50 for polluting Indian waters, if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (d) The Disaster Management Department of Kerala State had issued advisories to the fishermen on 25th May, 2025, instructing fishermen not to venture within a 20 nautical mile radius of the sunken vessel. The Government of Kerala informed that high-level meeting was convened with the scientists of ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) and representatives of fishermen on 28th May, 2025 to discuss the possible ecological impact and necessary actions to be taken for protection of fishery resources and livelihood of fishermen. Accordingly, on 19.06.2025, a Joint Coordination Committee was constituted by the State Government of Kerala with representatives from KUFOS, CMFRI, CIFT, State Pollution Control Board, Food Safety, National Health Mission, and Coastal Police to review the scenario and to conduct necessary sampling, testing of water, and fish in accordance with the standard protocols. The test reports revealed that the fish samples were all in good

condition, and no objectionable smell or flavour was observed, and the pH, salinity and the conductivity of water samples were within the normal range. The preliminary analysis of water and fish samples revealed that there was no trace or the presence of oil content, no direct evidence to prove the presence of hazardous chemicals, and that the fish samples from the coasts of Ernakulam, Alappuzha, and Kollam, etc. were safe for consumption. It has also been informed that the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has been entrusted through the Environment Department of Kerala to undertake multi-sectoral loss assessment and impact study both short term and long term.

The Government of Kerala has informed that in response to MSC ELSA 3 interim relief has already been provided to the affected fishermen with financial assistance @ Rs.1000/- per family to 1,05,518 marine fishermen families (including 78,498 marine fishermen families and 24,020 allied fishermen families) from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), along with 6 kg of rice per family for compensating for their livelihood loss that occurred due to the mishap.
