

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *148
ANSWERED ON 11/02/2022

MARINE OIL SPILLS

*148. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has identified potential marine oil spill spots off the coast of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has identified spots for fishing off the coast of Kerala which remain vulnerable to potential oil spills, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has the record of marine oil spills, greater than 100 litres, by volume of oil spilled and total volume of sludge recovered off the coast of Kerala within the territorial waters and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has invested in technological advancements for improving recovery of oil spills, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.148 for 11.02.2022

(a), (b) & (c) No Sir. Potential marine oil spill spots and spots for fishing off the coast of Kerala vulnerable to potential oil spills cannot be identified as accidents cannot be predicted.

(d) The record of marine oil spills, greater than 100 litres off the coast of Kerala within the territorial waters is maintained by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and ICG has reported that no such incident happened in the last 15 years.

(e) Steps taken by Government for technological advancements for improving recovery of oil spills include

(i) Pollution Response Teams (PRTs) established by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at Mumbai, Chennai, Port Blair and Vadarinar to deal with any potential marine oil spill incident along the entire coastline of India.

(ii) PRTs hold Pollution Response PR Equipment such as different types of booms, skimmers, barges, dracones etc to respond to any Pollution Response (PR) incident in their Area of Responsibility (AOR) and also for subsequent recovery of spilled oil. They also impart PR Training to personnel of ICG, Ports Oil Handling Agencies and Coastal States/UTs.

(iii) ICG has commissioned three dedicated Pollution Response Vessels (PRVs) to deal with any potential marine oil spill incident along the entire coast line of India. These vessels are equipped with recovery equipment like Booms, Skimmers etc.

(iv) Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)/Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)/Interceptor Boats (IBs) with PR configuration are always available for recovery of spilled oil on the sea surface during any oil spill incident along the entire coastline of India.

(v) The Coast Guard aircraft are fitted with advance pollution monitoring device Maritime Surveillance System MSS 5000 which has the capability to locate oil spills even at night with the help of onboard fitted infrared and ultraviolet cameras. This helps in assessment of spilled oil on the sea surface even during night which facilitates early recovery of oil from the sea surface.

(vi) The Coast Guard Helicopters carry TC-3 bucket to spray Oil Spill Dispersant (OSD) that disintegrates the oil floating over the sea water, thereby obviating the need of recovery of spilled oil from the sea surface.

(vii) The Coast Guard Dornier aircraft are equipped with Spray Pods for spraying OSD over the spilled oil on the sea surface. As a result floating oil settle down on the sea bed which eventually deter the need to recover spilled oil from the sea surface.
