

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1866**  
ANSWERED ON – 02/08/2024

**ACCIDENTS IN VIZHINJAM PORT**

1866. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing accidents, causing deaths of many fishermen in the harbour mouth of Muthalappozhi in Vizhinjam of Thiruvananthapuram district;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to implement and ensure effective dredging activities at the harbour mouth in Muthalappozhi, to arrive a solution that will prevent accidents there;
- (c) whether the State Government of Kerala has furnished any representation to the Government in this regard and a demand for convening a high-level meeting with the representatives of Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd. (VISL) and Adani Ports for resolution of the issue;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is aware of any report pointing out that the concerned authorities to consistently maintain the 5-metre depth in the harbour mouth as per the Memorandum of Understanding; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) (c) & (d) In order to rectify the issues at Muthlappozhi harbour, Central Water and Power Research Station has conducted the model study pertaining the views raised by the local fishermen and submitted the final report recommending to extend the length of southern breakwater and the accumulated silt in the estuary and channel needs to be removed urgently till the completion of extension of breakwater. Based on the model study report, DPR has been prepared and being revised based on the guidelines of “Road

Map to Blue Port” and additional flume study suggested by Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery. The harbour is expected to be a free zone from accidents once the project is completed. Meanwhile, the state government has sanctioned funds of Rs. 3 Cr. for the immediate dredging works and for protection of breakwater.

(e) & (f) Yes, Sir. According to the MoU executed during 2018, Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt. Ltd. (AVPPL) is responsible for maintaining a channel depth of -5m with respect to Chart Datum (CD) with a minimum width of 60m. Additionally, AVPPL shall ensure the navigability of the Perumathura and Thazhampally fishing harbour areas, by maintaining a depth of -3m with respect to CD. The MoU also stipulates that AVPPL shall rectify any damages caused to the breakwater on bridge due to the construction of the loadout facility.

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