

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4038
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER 2024

Environmental Damage caused by CPCL

4038. Thiru Dayanidhi Maran:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) to address the environmental damage caused by the oil spill in Ennore;
- (b) the criteria and mechanism by which CPCL ensure the restoration of the affected ecosystems, particularly the mangroves and wetlands, as directed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT);
- (c) whether the CPCL have a disaster management and mitigation framework in place to prevent such incidents in the future, if so, the details thereof along with the details to strengthen the post-incident measures;
- (d) whether the CPCL ensure transparency in the remediation process in providing periodic updates to the State Government and the public, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the CPCL complied with all the directives issued by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and NGT, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the challenges faced in compliance of the said directives; and
- (f) whether CPCL has any plan to address the socio-economic damage costs highlighted by the TNPCB by issuing show-cause notice and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) to (f) Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) has undertaken restoration activities in coordination with the Tamil Nadu State Government Authorities, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to address the environmental damage caused by the oil spill in Ennore in December, 2023. Bioremediation of mangrove area was carried out by the use of herbal nano bio-dispersant on the advice of TNPCB through National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa. CPCL provided daily updates to the State Government authorities. Post restoration activities, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted by the Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) concluded that there is

no environmental impact attributable to the oil spill. Further, CPCL has an Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP) to address scenarios including oil spill which has been revised in the year 2024.

CPCL has complied with the directives issued by the TNPCB with respect to oil spill which inter-alia, included providing permanent booms in the Buckingham Canal stretch at proper interval right from the upstream of the unit up to Kargil Nagar and also in the storm water canal near North and South gates leading to Buckingham Canal and Kosasthaliyar river, Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) for pollutant parameters such as pH, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Oil Grease at the outlet of ponds were installed, cleaning operation in Buckingham Canal and Ennore creek area, bioremediation of the oil spill area, installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in the storm water network leading outside the premises, disposal of oil mixed water and oil laden soil/debris collected from Ennore creek area. CPCL has also complied with the directives of National Green Tribunal (NGT) which inter-alia included remediation of oil water in a scientific/safe method and providing medical facilities and safety gears like gloves and masks to local fishermen to ensure their health and safety.

CPCL has also implemented recommendations from a study conducted by M/s Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) and the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) which inter-alia, included increasing rainwater collection capacity by 60% with construction of 3 new rainwater ponds, increasing height of rainwater collection ponds, construction of ramps/bund wall to prevent entry of flood water, installation of six additional oil catchers, providing online analyzers at the outlet of Storm Water Ponds, installation of containment booms at 8 locations at the outlet of CPCL and de-silting/de-vegetation of natural water passages with concerned State Authorities through Manali Industrial Association.

An assessment of compensation has been carried out by Commissionerate of Revenue Administration and Disaster Management, Government of Tamil Nadu and directed CPCL to deposit Rs. 7.53 Crores as a relief amount, which was deposited by CPCL on 19.12.2023. TNPCB has subsequently issued a show-cause notice to CPCL on 21.11.2024 for socio-economic and environmental damage. This matter is currently pending before the NGT.
