

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2109
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025

SINKING OF MSC ELSA-3

2109. COM. SELVARAJ V:
SHRI SUBBARAYAN K:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the sinking of a Liberian-flagged ship MSC Elsa-3 Thottappally (Alappuzha) spillway enroute from Vizhinjam port to Kochi on May 25, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any study was conducted as to the environmental and economic fall out from this incident, if so, the details and conclusion thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to secure compensation from the shipping company for the environmental and maritime damages and losses caused thereby?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government of India is aware of sinking of Liberian-flagged ship MSC ELSA-3 sank approximately 13 nautical miles off the Alappuzha coast on 25.05.2025. 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 claim Desks have been established by the vessel owner through the vessel's Protection and Indemnity (P&I) insurer, M/s. North Standard P&I Club, to facilitate the collection and processing of claims.
