

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION No. \*116**  
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2026

**SHIP BREAKING JOB**

\*116: DR. THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOLKAPPIYAN:

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 dangerous occupational and environmental health problems being posed by the ship breaking job;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is also aware of the fatalities, injuries, health hazards and work related diseases faced by the people due to the ship breaking industry in the country, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF PORTS SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*116 TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026 RAISED BY Dr. THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOLKAPPIYAN, HON'BLE MP REGARDING "SHIP BREAKING JOB"**

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(a) Yes. The Government is aware that the Ship breaking job poses occupational, environmental and health related challenges.

(b) Due to such challenges, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has addressed this global issue related to Ship Recycling job by adopting the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC) in May 2009. This global framework is designed to ensure that ships, when being recycled, do not pose unnecessary risks to human health, safety, and the environment. India being a market leader in Ship Recycling acceded to the HKC and has enacted the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, which aligns with HKC requirements as well as framed the Recycling of Ships Rules, 2021 which were notified on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. The convention entered into force on June 26, 2025 and from this date onward, all ships being recycled and recycling facilities are required to comply with the HKC's standards. The Recycling of Ships Regulations, 2026 have been notified on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

A comprehensive regulatory and compliance framework has also been put in place at the Alang-Sosiya Ship Recycling Yard (ASSRY), Gujarat, which is the largest ship recycling cluster in India where 98 percent of ship recycling is being carried out. Mandatory safety training, use of PPE, gas-free certification, emergency response systems, hazardous waste management, availability of a Level-III Trauma Centre, and continuous monitoring by the Gujarat Maritime Board, Gujarat Pollution Control Board and Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH), are in place in Alang.

(c) Yes. The Government has notified the National Authority and Competent Authority for implementation of Hong Kong Convention as per the Ship Recycling Act, 2019. The fatalities, injuries, health hazard and work related diseases faced by the Ship recycling workers are being monitored by Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH), State Pollution Control Board and the State Maritime Boards/State Government concerned departments. It is pertinent to note that the strengthened regulations, infrastructure upgradation and enforcement have significantly enhanced workforce safety in this industry in the Country.

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