

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, February 03, 2017/ Magha 14, 1938 (Saka)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The Declaration of Countries as Sponsor of Terrorism Bill, 2016

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: This Bill is to call out countries like Pakistan that continue to associate, promote, patronise and sponsor terrorism against our nation. It is to put into motion the process of calling terror sponsors to account for years of terror sponsorship and for causing losses of innocent lives. India and other countries in the region have been victims of numerous terror attacks from organisations and individuals based in and with the support of elements in Pakistan. Despite undeniable evidence, incontrovertible evidence and widespread desire of the people of India, we have continued to engage Pakistan diplomatically, culturally and economically in a meaningless engagement. These meaningless dialogues have exposed one fundamental reality that Pakistan state will not do anything unless they are coerced to do so.

I believe that the Government and Parliament must act now. It is time that we stopped running to other countries to declare Pakistan a terror State and stood up and did this job ourselves. In

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addition to its diplomatic and military options, India should use its economic and trade strengths to send out a strong and firm message that we intend to change the relationship with Pakistan into one where Pakistan is a more responsible and accountable neighbour. It is time that we should define what national interest means because we are seeing what the rest of the world is doing to protect their nations and their own people.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: The present Government could not withstand and stand up to the exigencies of bilateral relations and cross border terrorism. It is a great detailed Bill. This can be taken up by the Government for further consideration. This type of decline has happened in our bilateral relations. What is happening in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir?(*Speech unfinished*)

Discussion not concluded.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

Actions Taken in Aftermath of Ship Collision off Kamarajar Harbour

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Two vessels namely, M.T. BW MAPLE and M.T. DAWN KANCHIPURAM while crossing each other collided at 3.45 A.M. on 28 January 2017 off the Kamarajar harbour. The vessel M.T. DAWN KANCHIPURAM, which was carrying 32813 Tonnes of POL, suffered a rupture which led to oil spill. There was no casualty or injury to the crew members. My colleague, Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan visited the collision site on 30.01.2017 and inspected the area where the vessels were anchored and gave appropriate directions to the Kamarajar Port officers.

Kamarajar Port deployed oil boom around the vessel to contain seepage. After examination, the damaged vessel was towed safely and berthed at Kamarajar Port on 30 January 2017. This vessel has already discharged 30013 Tonnes of POL and the remaining quantity is expected to be discharged today. This major step has prevented any further possibility of oil spill.

A massive cleanup operation was launched in Tiruvallur, Chennai and Kancheepuram Districts by engaging more than 2000 persons at various sites including Emavur, Chennai Fishing Harbour, Marina Beach, Besant Nagar, Kottivakkam, Palavakkam, Neelankarai and Injambakkam beaches. The Coast Guard has been co-coordinating the cleaning operations jointly with Chennai Port, Kamarajar Port, the State Government and its agencies, Indian Oil Corporation, NGOs, Cadet Trainees from maritime educational institutions and fishermen. A team of senior officers from Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and D.G. Shipping were sent for an on the spot inspection of the affected areas and to coordinate and review the cleaning operations. They also met the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu who has also held review meetings and is regularly monitoring the remedial measures being taken. The District administration is actively involved in the cleanup operations. The Chennai Port and Kamarajar Port have set up Control Rooms.

At Ernavur, which had the maximum drift of sludge, booms have been deployed along the shore line to contain the oil spread. More than 1000 people were deployed here with portable pollution cleaning equipment for shore line cleaning. The required logistics and equipment support has been provided by the Chennai and Kamarajar Ports. Sufficient gum boots, gloves buckets, mugs, liquid hand wash and drums have been provided to facilitate manual cleaning. In addition, 3 Super Suckers and submersible pumps have also been deployed to remove the oil spill. Coast Guard has also sprayed Oil Spill Dispersants for removal of oil slick.

The total quantity of sludge which has been removed till today is 65 tons. In addition, Super Suckers have removed 54 tons which contains 70 per cent water. More than 80 per cent of the work has

been completed and most of the residual work is expected to be completed within two-three days. The Indian Oil Corporation has provided special bio-remediation material for treatment of the collected oil sludge for its safe disposal.

The Coast Guard ship and helicopters are carrying out regular sorties for continuous monitoring of oil slick. If oil spillage accumulation is spotted anywhere, manpower and material under the overall supervision of Coast Guard will be deployed.

The Directorate General of Shipping has instituted an inquiry under the Merchant Shipping Act to ascertain the cause and contributory factors that led to the accident. The Government is taking all measures to manage the situation. My colleague, Shri Radhakrishnan P., will also be visiting the affected area again to take stock of the situation.

The Hon'ble Minister, replying to the points raised by the members, said: Two vessels namely, M.T. BW MAPLE and M.T. DAWN KANCHIPURAM suffered accident. Immediate action was taken regarding the seepage of oil and to contain the further seepage of oil. Everything was monitored. There was no casualty in this accident. The oil spillage will be safely removed and all the measures are being actively taken to remove the hazardous substances in Kamarajar port.

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Secretary-General.

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