

Strategic depth of Karwar naval base

2362. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to have major expansion of the strategic Karwar, India's third major naval base after Mumbai and Visakhapatnam, naval base in Karnataka;

(b) whether the expansion is being made to base some other frontline warships/aircraft carriers/submarines there;

(c) whether the expansion is going to provide India with much needed strategic depth and operational flexibility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Investigation into sinking of cargo vessels

2363. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted investigation into the incidents of sinking of cargo vessels, M.V. Wisdom and M.V. Pavit at Mumbai's Juhu beach on 11th June and 31st July, 2011 respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps being taken by Government to check the occurrences of such incidents even after modernizing the monitoring system of Indian Coast Guard post 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The two cargo vessels MV Wisdom and MT Pavit ran aground off Mumbai coast during June-July 2011. MV Wisdom, being towed from Colombo to Alang for dismantling lost tow approximately 12 nm west of Mumbai harbour and due to prevalent adverse sea conditions finally ran aground at Juhu beach on the night of 11th June, 2011.

MT Pavit was abandoned on 30th June, 2011 off Oman coast due to engine breakdown and ingress of water. All 13 Indian crew were rescued by Royal Navy warship and transferred to MT Jag Pushpa for disembarkation at Sikka Gujarat.

The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Mumbai remained in touch with the vessel throughout the ordeal till abandoning and requested the owner to monitor the vessel.