

incomes of thousands small savings agents throughout the country who work day and night to make the small savings schemes popular. Apart from that, if these recommendations are implemented, millions of small investors will not have any other options but to invest their money in share market for better returns and thus the entire concept of small savings will be defeated. I, therefore, demand that the report of the Shymala Gopinath Committee be rejected.

Concern over water pollution off the Mumbai coast

SHRI AVINASH PANDE (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to bring to your attention the state of water pollution off the Mumbai coast which has been further aggravated by the spillage caused by the sinking carrier M.V. Rak.

Recently, the maritime ecology near the Mumbai coast has been severely degraded by the water pollution created by dumping of industrial waste and sewage into the sea. Moreover, the Panama carrier M.V. Rak sank 20 nautical miles off the Mumbai coast on 4th August, 2011 spilling 290 tons of fuel oil, 50 tons of diesel oil and 60,054 tons of coal into the sea which has further increased water pollution in the area to alarming levels. Another similar accident happened in August, 2010 when M.V. MSC Chitra and M.V. Khalija III collided off the Mumbai coast spilling 700 tons of oil into the sea. As a direct consequence of water pollution, scenic beauty of the area as well as tourism industry has declined. Moreover, these events have also taken a toll on the livelihood of the fishermen and their families thriving on the area.

I, therefore, request the Government to find a long term solution to the problem by taking steps to control and curb pollution in the area. I also request the Government to provide relief to members of the fishing community of Mumbai as well as to ensure proper distribution of relief funds as there were many complaints regarding the same after oil spillage in August, 2010.

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Demand for withdrawing decision of clubbing caste census with poverty survey

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, while the Government has inserted the caste column into the poverty survey questionnaire, the processing of the two is to be done separately. The poverty data are to be processed by the State Governments and the caste information is to be separated and sent to the office of the Registrar General of India.