

**Oil spill near Ennore Port**

\*417. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the preparedness of Government to meet situations like recent oil spill near Ennore Port in Chennai;
- (b) the steps taken up by Government to clear the sea of the oil spill;
- (c) what is the cost of damage the oil spill caused; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to give compensation to the fishermen affected by the oil spill?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Government of India has taken various measures to control oil spill at sea. Pollution response teams have been established by the Indian Coast Guard at Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair. Further, Indian Coast Guard also maintains pollution response equipment at Vadinar Station, Gujarat to mitigate the impact of oil spill. Three dedicated pollution response vessels have been commissioned. To ensure response preparedness, regular training and exercises are conducted by the Indian Coast Guard. As per National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan, all ports and oil handling agencies are required to maintain pollution response equipment in readiness.

(b) Indian Coast Guard deployed 7 ships and 17 helicopters for a total of 165.5 hours and 32.50 hours respectively during cleanup operation for the oil spill near Ennore Port in January, 2017. Besides this, approximate 962 mandays of Indian Coast Guard and 176 mandays from Indian Navy were employed in the shoreline cleanup operation. A total of 187 tons of oil/sludge, 109 kiloliter of oil mixed with water and 81.5 tons of tar balls mixed with sand was collected to make the sea and shore line clear of oil.

(c) The oil spill affected the fishing gears and boats in the area. Further, oil slick cut the oxygen supply to the aquatic animals by preventing dissolution of oxygen into water thereby temporarily affecting the marine food chain. Detailed study is required to be carried out to understand the impact of the present accident which shall include physical, chemical and biological impacts of the oil spill on flora and fauna post removal of the oil. However, it is difficult to assess the exact quantum of the cost of damage due to the complexity of issue.

(d) At present there is no such scheme of Government of India to provide compensation to the fishermen affected by the oil spill.

**Easier availability of XDRTB drugs**

\*418. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doses of Extensively Drug Resistant TB (XDRTB) drugs *i.e.*, Bedaquiline and Delamanid are made available to patients through TB centres at 5 metro cities only;

(b) if so, the reasons for denial of supply of these drugs to patients residing in other cities by these TB centres; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to ensure easier access to these drugs for XDRTB patients residing in other cities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) Drug for management of Drug Resistant TB *i.e.* Bedaquiline is available under Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) in India currently in 5 States/cities (Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Guwahati). As the drug has not undergone Phase-III trials and has been documented to have serious adverse drug reactions, the programme initiated its use in a limited number of centres.

Delamanid is not yet available under the Government programme in India.

(b) Apart from the 5 cities, Bedaquiline can be made available under compassionate grounds across the country. Compassionate use refers to the use outside of a clinical trial of an investigational medical product (*i.e.* one that has not been approved by Drug Controller/Competent Authority). Under this protocol, a Medical practitioner can prescribe such medicine to needy patients.

Delamanid is not yet licensed for supply in India and hence is not available under the Government programme. However Delamanid can be made available under compassionate grounds.

(c) Based on the limited use of the drug in these five States/cities, it has been decided to expand the availability in rest of the country. Country wide training is being carried out to build capacity of other States and the States are also being prepared to monitor treatment of patients with Bedaquiline containing regimen. States are also