

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2699
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th AUGUST, 2021**

Sinking of ONGC Vessels due to cyclone

2699 # Smt. Sampatiya Uikey:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas be pleased to state:

- (a) the age of the barge installed by ONGC in the deep sea off Mumbai High which sank on 17th May, 2021 due to Tauktae cyclone;
- (b) whether it was tested before entering into contract, if so, details of the tests;
- (c) the details of amount of assistance given to the families of the employees and others killed in this storm; and
- (d) whether the responsibility of anyone has been fixed that even after knowing about the cyclone in time and why were the employees working in the deep sea and reason behind non-evacuation of those from the site?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

- (a) The Barge Papaa-305 was built in the year of 2004.
- (b) The specifications of the barge Papaa-305 were reviewed and technical acceptance was given by M/s Engineers India Ltd, a Government of India Enterprise. As per standard protocol, a joint safety audit of the Barge Papaa-305 was carried on 23rd Oct'20 by a team consisting of representatives of ONGC, Safety Officer from M/s. Certification of Engineers India Limited (CEIL), Master Mariner from M/s Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), and Contractor's Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) representative. The said Barge had all necessary statutory certificates required for sea worthiness for carrying out intended operation.
- (c) ONGC issued cheques of Rs. 1 Lakh to each 188 survivors families as immediate relief and Rs 2 Lakh to families of 86, who died. The total amount of relief extended is Rs 3.6 Crore.

(d) Based on weather considerations, ONGC had advised Barges Papaa-305 to move out of the field and barge had also confirmed that they are moving out of the field. The Government has constituted a High Level Committee to enquire into the sequence of the events leading to the stranding of vessels and accidents.
