

Goa's coastline lies off the oil tanker route from the Gulf ports to the Far East and Japan. Every year, millions of tonnes of oil and its products are transported along this route. Ships sailing along this route discharge their oily ballasts and bilge washings. After evaporation of the lighter frac-

tions of oil and photooxidation, the heavier fractions gradually form into tar balls. Driven by winds and currents these tar balls are deposited on the beaches. Periodic tar balls and raw oil pollution is observed on all the major beaches, mostly during the onset of monsoon (tar balls

and sometimes throughout the year (raw oil cakes).

The life of the tar balls out on sea varies from 38-58 days, while on the beach it is not yet known. However, due to the half yearly change in surface circulation, these tar balls are deposited along the beaches of the west coast of India, including Goa.

However, the pollution incidences involving raw oil 'cakes/debris' occurring on and off along the entire coastline is mostly attributable to possible cases of clandestine or accidental dumping of oil by 'ships/boats/trawlers' anchored in the Port areas or plying in territorial waters close to the coastline. This possibility has been brought to the notice of the Coast Guard and the MPT. Such incidents can only be controlled by frequent patrolling and by taking stringent action against the offenders.

Estimates from two years' data gave a figure of 40 tonnes as the yearly deposition of tar balls on the beaches along the coast of Goa.

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Present Status of Environment Pollution and
around Goa, NIO, Dona Paula, Goa.

Pollution along the coast from oily wastes discharged illegally by ships

