

# Minister: Waste from MSC Elsa 3 accumulated along Kerala coast

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**T**ipuram: Fisheries minister Saji Cherian said in the assembly that a large amount of waste accumulated along the coastal region from the MSC Elsa 3 shipwreck. The minister said 1,400 tonnes of plastic waste were found, however, it has not affected marine life. Inspections were conducted from the co-

## SHIPWRECK FALLOUT

asts, including Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Kollam, he said.

"A significant amount of waste has accumulated from the MSC Elsa 3 shipwreck. There are 1,400 tonnes of plastic waste which have accumulated along the various coastal regions in different districts. However, there are no issues with the quality of fish or water becau-



File Photo

The minister said the plastic waste washed ashore has not affected marine life

se of this. Tests were conducted on the shores, including Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Kollam," he told the assembly. Some containers leaked chemicals into the sea, affecting the water's pH levels. Samples of water and fish were collected from the coasts of Ernakulam, Kollam and Alappuzha and were tested by CMFRI and found to be problem-free, Cherian said.

He said fish eggs were also collected and examined. The extent of pollution was assessed through drone surveillance. Clean-up operations were conducted along the shore. An expert committee was appointed to study the sunken containers. Hazardous materials were present in 143 containers. Compensation of Rs 10.55 crore was provided to fishermen along the coasts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam and Alappuzha, he added.

The minister stated that everything possible was done, and a fine was imposed for environmental pollution. The court ordered a security deposit of Rs 16,705.65 crore. Though the shipping company informed the court to limit liability to Rs 132 crore, the govt has not yet objected. On May 25, 640 containers, including those with calcium carbide, sank off the coast of Kerala.