

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2193
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003
SINKING OF ABLE VESSEL
CHANDRA NATH SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the vessel MV "Able 1" owned by Ajmah based company M/s Global Shipping company Sank off the coast of Somalia on June 25, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether the Indian seamen have been rescued and are currently held incommunicado by the owner of the vessel based in Ajmah, U.A.E.
- (c) if so, whether the Government has received several letters from MPs in this regard;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has taken up this issue with U.A.E.; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement with regard to para (a to e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2193 to be answered on 17.12.2003 on "Sinking of Able 1 Vessel"

MV Able 1, a general purpose cargo vessel, owned by M/s Corner Stone General Trading Company, Ajman (United Arab Emirates), sank in rough seas off the coast of Somalia on June 25, 2003. The ship had a crew of 15 members. Nine crew members, including six Indian seamen, were rescued by a German warship in the vicinity. The six Indian seamen were subsequently repatriated to India by the Honorary Consul of India in Djibouti. The German warship reported that the remaining crew members of the ship, including the following three Indian seamen, could not be found around the location where the ship sank:-

- i) Shri Piyush Srivastava
- ii) Shri Moniz Bralyo Pasclo
- iii) Shri Lavish Kumar Arora

2. The report that the three missing Indian seamen might be held incommunicado by the owner of the vessel has not been verified. The Government has received letters in regard to the three missing Indian seamen from various quarters including from Hon'ble Members of Parliament Shri C.N. Singh and Dr. Akhilesh Das, as well as from the National Human Rights Commission. The matter is being vigorously pursued by the Indian Consulate in Dubai with the Ajman authorities and the handling agent of the ship in Dubai. The body of the Captain of MV Able 1, an Ethiopian national, has since been recovered. However, no further information regarding the fate of the remaining five missing crew members, including the three Indian seamen, has been forthcoming.