

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3586  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000  
DISAPPEARANCE OF VESSEL  
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether M.V. Golden Harvest vessel carrying goods from Jordan to Bhavnagar in Gujarat disappeared 50 miles away from Gujarat-coast on June 9, 1998;
- (b) if so, the number of crew members on board and the number of Indian crew members out of them;
- (c) whether apprehension has been raised that crew members might in Pak captivity;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the assistance the Government are rendering to the families of crew members?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) to (f) M.V. Golden Harvest, a vessel, owned by a Sharjah (UAE) based company was caught in a cyclone on 9-6-1998 while on its way to India from Jordan. According to the owner of the vessel, 24 crew members including 12 Indian nationals were on board. In spite of repeated searches carried out by our Coast Guard, neither the vessel nor the crew members could be traced.

The Government of Pakistan was requested to ascertain if its concerned agencies had any information relating to the vessel. Pakistan informed us that the last known position of the vessel was 21° 21' North, 68° 18' East, which was outside the search and rescue area of Pakistan, as delegated by the International Maritime Organisation.