

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1633

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

HIJACKING OF SHIPS

Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the incidents of hijacking of Indian seafarers and merchant ships by Somali pirates has been on rise during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce such incidents in future;
- (d) the details of compensation provided by the Government to the relatives of the victims who have been killed by these pirates during the said period, year-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has taken up the matter at the international level to elicit cooperation from multilateral bodies involved in the security of ships; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING(SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): The incidents of hijacking with Indian seafarers on board of ships are on the rise. The details for the last three years and the current year (as per report available) are given below:-

Year	No. of ships hijacked	Total No. of seafarers held hostage	No. of Indian ships hijacked	No. of Indian seafarers held hostage	No. of Indian MSV's hijacked	No. of Indian seafarers held hostage on MSV's
------	-----------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------	---

2007	12	177	NIL	28	2	28
------	----	-----	-----	----	---	----

2008	42	795	NIL	50	1	13
------	----	-----	-----	----	---	----

2009	47	740	NIL	58	8	116
------	----	-----	-----	----	---	-----

2010	03	67	NIL	05	1	14
------	----	----	-----	----	---	----

(c): The following steps have been taken by the Government to combat the incidents of piracy-

(i) The Directorate General of Shipping has issued various advisories to ships/vessels transiting through Gulf of Aden providing information relating to piracy in the area and also providing details of patrol convoy timing followed by the Indian Naval vessel patrolling in the region.

(ii) Advisories and information obtained from various international forces present in the area are regularly forwarded to the Indian shipping fraternity.

(iii) An Indian Navy warship has been deployed in the area from 23.10.2008 to escort Indian ships and other ships seeking assistance.

(iv) The Indian delegation made intervention in the 101st Council meeting of the International Maritime Organization in London in November, 2008 and proposed a UN Task Force under a unified command to prevent the ever increasing piracy attacks off the

Somali coast.

(d): Till date only one Indian seafarer is reported to have been killed by pirates and the flag state is Panama. The death and injury compensation is the responsibility of ship owners who obtain insurance cover through Protection and Indemnity Club.

(e) & (f): Government of India has also raised the matter at various international fora including the International Maritime Organization in order to invoke the intervention of the world body to control and combat this menace.