

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:526

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010

SEA PIRACY

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the missing Indian boats/ships/ vessels being used by Somali pirates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian boats/ships/vessels alongwith sailors/seafarers recently attacked and captured/hijacked by the Somali pirates during each of the last three years and the current year have been traced and got freed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for its permanent solution with the association of the other affected countries?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K.VASAN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.526 FOR 3.5.2010 BY SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI AND SHRI GANESH SINGH REGARDING SEA PIRACY

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) to (e): MSV "Visva Kalyan" (dhow) was hijacked off Mogadishu and was used as mother ship by the pirates for further piracy attacks on merchant ships. The status of hijacking of Indian vessels for the past three (3) years and the current year is given below:

Year	No. of Indian Ships Hijacked (Merchant vessels)
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2007	Nil
2008	Nil
2009	Nil
2010	Nil
Total	Nil

Year	No.of Indian MSVs	No.of Seafarers of Indian	Current status of Indian MSVs/Dhows held hostage	Current status of Indian eafarers held hostage
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2007	2	28	Nil	Nil
2008	1	13	Nil	Nil
2009	8	116	Nil	Nil
2010	10	150	Nil	Nil
Total	21	307	Nil	Nil

The Government has taken following steps to curb the menace of piracy:

(i) One Indian naval ship has been deployed in the Gulf of Aden since 2008 to escort Indian merchant vessels.

(ii) There is a 24 x 7 communication centre in the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai to closely coordinate with all Indian interests, Indian Navy and other piracy mitigating agencies in the region to preempt piracy incidents and also monitor actions in the event of attacks. The Directorate General of Shipping has issued several security advisories.

(iii) In the aftermath of large number of hijackings involving mechanized sailing vessels in the recent past, the Directorate General of Shipping vide ISPS Circular dated 30th March 2010, has prohibited plying of mechanized sailing vessels in the piracy infested areas.

In January 2009, twenty two countries, including India, that had an interest in protection of the Gulf of Aden sea-lane, and five International Organizations formed an informal Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), which is a broad based policy oriented Group. Further, the Indian delegation has made several interventions in the meetings of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on the issue of piracy.