

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6069

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010

VIOLATION OF GUIDELINES BY SHIPPING COMPANIES

Abdulrahman Shri ;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sailors community have alleged that the shipping companies have neglected bigger issues related to piracy, ship disaster and violation of certain guidelines set by the Government;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is mandatory for all shipping companies to have proper insurance coverage for sailors so that their relatives get proper compensation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against shipping companies who are violating the above provisions/guidelines?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

- (a): Apart from the concerns expressed by the Indian Seafarers' Unions on the issue of piracy, isolated complaints are occasionally received on ship disaster and violation of Government guidelines.
- (b): There is a 24 x 7 Communication Centre in the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai, to closely coordinate with all the Indian vessels, Indian Navy and other piracy mitigating agencies in the area to preempt piracy attacks. One Indian naval ship has been deployed since 2008 to escort Indian merchant ships. In the aftermath of the hijacking of large number of mechanized sailing vessels (dhows) in the recent past, Directorate General of Shipping has issued ISPS Circular dated 30.3.2010 prohibiting plying of such vessels in the piracy infested areas. Indian delegations have made several interventions in the meeting of the International Maritime Organisation for curbing the menace of piracy. India is also a founder member of the International Contact Group on Piracy of the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). The Government has also taken several measures with respect to ship disaster and violation of guidelines that are available on the website of Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai (www.dgshipping.com).
- (c) & (d): It is a general principle for all ship owners to have P & I cover for all seafarers working on their ships. P & I cover includes compensation for injury/death of seafarers in case of shipping casualty.
- (e): Action against the defaulting Indian shipping companies is initiated by the Shipping Master under Section 132, 133 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.