

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010
EXPLOSIVES ON KARACHI BOUND SHIP
Muttamwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Karachi bound ship containing explosives, arms and ammunition was detained recently at Diamond Harbour, Kolkata;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the exact contents of the shipping were not disclosed before the ship set sail from the port of Chittagaon in Bangladesh.
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Union Government in this regard;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (g) whether the ship has been released by the Indian Government; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A Karachi-bound ship namely M.V. Aegean Glory containing hazardous cargo namely explosives, arms and ammunition, in containers, was detained on the basis of information received from Kolkata Port Trust on 25-06-2010.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Though declaration was filed for the cargo on the ship, hazardous nature of the cargo bound for Pakistan was not declared as required by Customs Law.
- (e) & (f): Inquiry conducted by Kolkata Customs revealed that non filling of proper declaration in respect of cargo bound for Pakistan had taken place due to communication gap between the Owners of the vessel/Captain of the ship and the steamer agent. The ship was found to have been chartered by the United Nations for repatriation of cargos belonging to Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, whose military units were part of UN mission in Liberia. The ship was on its onward journey after off loading cargo of Bangladesh Army at Chittagong Port for discharging cargo of Nepal Army at Kolkata Port.
- (g) & (h): Yes, Madam. The ship has been released and left on 08-07-2010.