

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:507
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
ISRAELI ATTACK ON GAZA BOUND SHIP
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the recent attacks by the Israeli Commandos on a high profile Gaza bound aid flotilla; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) Yes.

(b) On 31 May 2010, Israeli Defence Forces intercepted `Mavi Marmara` - along with five other ships in international waters in an attempt to prevent these ships from breaking the Israeli enforced naval blockade of Gaza. The Israeli action resulted in loss of nine lives and injuries to several others. The ships were brought to the Israeli port of Ashdod after interception and activists were subsequently allowed to return to their respective countries.

The Government of India issued a statement the same day, stating-"India deplores the tragic loss of life and the reports of killings and injuries to people on the boats carrying supplies for Gaza. There can be no justification for such indiscriminate use of force, which we condemn. We extend our sympathies to the families of the dead and wounded. It is our firm conviction that lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue and not through use of force."