

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3132

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY IN IOR

Jindal Shri Naveen;Kataria Shri Lal Chand;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ships/vessels captured/kept hostage by the pirates in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has deployed warships in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia as part of anti-piracy mission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the number of warships deployed at present;
- (d) the total number of vessels, arms and pirates apprehended so far;
- (e) the proposals, if any, to levy charges for escorting merchant vessels of India and other countries; and
- (f) the other measures being taken by the Government to augment maritime security in the IOR and also for the coastal States of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (f): As per the International Maritime Bureau, during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, 71 ships have been kept hostage by the pirates in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Government has deployed one Indian Naval Warship in the Gulf of Aden for anti piracy patrols since October, 2008 and more than 1300 ships have been escorted. The presence of Indian Navy in the area is to protect our sea borne trade and instill confidence in our sea faring community. There is no proposals for levying of charges for this.

Government has initiated several measures to augment Coastal Security. The coastal surveillance and patrolling have been enhanced. Joint and operational exercises are conducted on regular basis among the Navy, the Coast Guard, Coastal Police, Customs and others. In addition, continuous review and monitoring of various security mechanisms is done by the Central and State Governments at different levels, involving various concerned agencies.