

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1710

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

LOOTING OF SHIPS

Abdulrahman Shri ;Deshmukh Shri K. D.;Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of Indian sailors on board merchant ships being looted and kept hostage by Somalian pirates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such incidents reported during the last three years;
- (c) the number of pirates/looters apprehended by the Indian Security forces during the last three years;
- (d) the details of action taken against the guilty; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard and to deal with the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The details of piracy incidents involving foreign flag vessels which had Indian seafarers on board is as under:

Year wise No.of No.of No.of No.of No.of

	ships	Indian	Indian	Indian	Indian
	hija-	Seafa-	ships	MSV's	Seafarers
	cked	rers	hijacked	hijacked	taken
	with	taken	hostage		
	Indian	hostage		on MSV's	
	crew on	on ships			
	board				

2008	23	50	Nil	1	13
2009	21	58	Nil	8	116
2010	24	11	Nil	1	14
2011	02	26	Nil	1	14
(02.03.11)					
Total	70	145	Nil	11	157

(c): As per the reports received from Indian Navy and Coast Guard, the number of pirates/looters apprehended by Indian security forces during the last three years is as under:

Year Number of Pirates Apprehended

2008	23
2009	00
2010	00
2011	52
Total	75

(d): Coast Guard has lodged the FIR against the pirates and Mumbai Police is in the process of prosecuting the pirates.

(e): Following initiatives have been taken by Government to safeguard and to deal with recurrence of such incidents:

(i) Deployment of Indian naval ship to protect Indian interest.

(ii) Coordination of transit of Indian interest with Indian Navy by 24x7 Communication Centre located at the Directorate General of

Shipping (DGCommcentre).

(iii) DGCommcentre immediately alerts Indian navy, Indian Coast Guard and co-ordinate with other international security forces operating in the region in cases of any report about pirate attack on Indian interest.

(iv) Issuance of various advisories to Indian interest immediately after an attack to caution them about the areas where further attacks are apprehended.

(v) Regular participation by Indian delegation in the deliberation of Working Group of International Contact Group at United Nations to develop and implement national/ international counter piracy policy and programmes.

(vi) Interventions in various International Maritime organization (IMO) Meetings and supporting all such interventions by other Member States urging the International community to address the menace of piracy.

(vii) UN Security Council Resolutions 1816, 1838, 1846 and 1851 and various IMO circulars and guidelines issued to address piracy related concerns.

(viii) Advisory on safe house and best management practices to Indian ship owners.