

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:97
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
DAMAGE TO INS GODAVARI
Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Pakistani warship PNS Babur, while escorting an Egyptian merchant vessel, caused damage to INS Godavari as reported recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Navy has lodged protest with its Pakistani counterpart; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): While carrying out anti piracy patrol, Indian Naval Warship INS Godavari on coming close to MV Suez, which had earlier been hijacked, tried to establish communication for ascertaining the safety of the crew. In the meantime, Pakistani Warship PNS Babur closed INS Godavari at high speed from astern and carried out a manoeuvre in gross violation of the relevant regulations on navigational safety and in the process touched Godavari, thereby marginally damaging the extended safety net on the helicopter deck.

India lodged a protest with the Government of Pakistan through the High Commission of Pakistan, New Delhi against the violation of relevant regulations on navigational safety by PNS Babur.