

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5206

ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011

PIRACY'S IMPACT ON TRADE

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B. ;Singh Shri Radhey Mohan

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether pirates are a well organized gang who change their tactics repeatedly;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been made to know the reason behind this;
- (c) whether the menace of sea piracy had also pushed up the cost of trade for India and trade with the West-particularly the European countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has raised concern with the United Nations for more collective action and its negative impact on world trade; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The reasons for changes in tactics of pirates have been a subject of constant review by International shipping community. The general understanding is that pirates are forever looking for 'soft targets' and newer techniques for extending their reach. Earlier pirate activities were mainly concentrated in the Gulf of Aden. However, due to increased military (Naval) presence in the area, incidents of piracy are now reported more eastward in the Arabian seas. Pirates have also started using captured merchant ships as 'mother ships' to launch attacks far away from the Somalia coast.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. On account of extension of 'high risk area' from earlier 65 degree East to 78 degree East (up to the outer limit of territorial waters of India), the cost of insurance for trading in the Arabian seas has generally gone up.

(e) & (f): Yes, Madam. The Government of India has drawn attention to the problem of piracy and hostage taking off the Coast of Somalia and called for urgent and collaborative international counter-piracy measures in the meetings of the United Nations Security Council, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).