

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2587

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011

PROBLEM OF PIRACY

Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar;Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of the global problem of piracy and terrorism;
- (b) if, so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the discussions have been held with the African countries including Somalia in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) According to the International Maritime Organization, the number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships which occurred or were attempted globally rose to 489 in 2010, an increase of more than 20 % from the figure for 2009 and 63 % from 2008. The areas most affected were East Africa and the Far East, in particular the South China Sea, followed by the Indian Ocean, West Africa, South America and the Caribbean. Since 2008, the Gulf of Aden, the western part of the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea have also seen a major spurt in attacks by pirates operating from Somalia, which has emerged as a serious problem for merchant shipping.

(c) & (d) The issue of piracy was discussed with the Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia during his visit to India in April 2011. He pledged the full support of Somalia and the Transitional Federal Government in extending assistance to India in counter-piracy efforts. India has also been providing assistance to Somalia bilaterally for capacity building which would, inter alia, enable it to combat piracy more effectively. In addition to discussions with Somalia and other African countries of the region in the ambit of the CGPCS, the issue of piracy was also discussed during the Second India Africa Forum Summit 2011 held in Addis Ababa in May 2011. The Declaration adopted at the Summit, inter alia, stressed the importance of addressing the threat posed by piracy off the Coast of Somalia and the suffering caused by taking of hostages, and called on all States to cooperate in combating and eradicating the menace of piracy.