

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4253  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011  
HOSTAGES BY PIRATES  
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

(a) the total number of Indians taken hostage particularly from Lakshadweep in 2010 and 2011 by the pirates and are still not released; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their safety and release?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): 333 Indians were taken hostage in 2010 and 2011. Of these 63 Indians are still not released by pirates. As per information available none of Indians taken hostage by pirates are from Lakshadweep.

(b): Following initiatives have been taken by Government to safeguard and to release the hostage:

(i) An Inter-Ministerial Group of Officers (IMGO) has been set up to deal with hostage situation arising out of the hijacking of merchant vessels with Indian crew on board.

(ii) The owners and flag administration of the hijacked vessels have been contacted through Indian Missions abroad to ensure that they take suitable steps for the safety and early release of the hostages.