

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:978

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011

RELEASE OF INDIAN CREW MEMBERS OF HIJACKED SHIPS

Naik Shri Shripad Yesso;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian crew in the Italian Cargo Ship Montesario hijacked by Somali Pirates and rescued by the UK forces recently;
- (b) whether all the crew members were rescued by the UK forces;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of the freed Indian crew members?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The vessel "Monte Cristo" was hijacked on 10th October, 2011 by Somali pirates about 620 miles from Somali coast. Total crew was 23 including 10 Indians and 4 unarmed security guards. The vessel was on a voyage from Liverpool (UK) to Vietnam with a cargo of scrap iron. The US and British naval forces freed the crew of the hijacked ship including ten Indians on 11th October, 2011 who had taken shelter in the "citadel" of the ship and captured 11 pirates.

(d): The Directorate General of Shipping has issued necessary instructions to all concerned to communicate with the family members of hijacked crew, arrange financial support and also provide professional counseling for the family members and the seafarers themselves.