

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:879

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

SEA PIRACY

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Tewari Shri Manish;Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's attention is drawn to recent instances to pirate attacks in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean posing serious threat to a large number of Indian seafarers;
- (b) if so, the number of Indian merchant vessels which have been hijacked by pirates during the last three years;
- (c) the number of persons who have been released with the Government efforts out of them; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check the unwanted events of piracy in order to ensure the safer merchant activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

- (a): Yes, Madam.
- (b): No Indian Merchant Ship has been hijacked during the last three years.
- (c): Does not arise.
- (d): The Government has initiated various preventive/mitigating security measures for combating piracy which include the following:
 - (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) Issuance of Notices by Director General of Shipping detailing elaborate anti-piracy measures (Best Management Practices) including safe house/citadel.
 - (iii) Banning of sailing vessels to ply in waters south or west of the line joining Salalah and Male vide M.S. Notice 3/2010 dated 31/3/2010.
 - (iv) Naval escort provided by Indian Naval Ships in Gulf of Aden.
 - (v) Enhanced vigil by Indian Navy in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and estward up to 65 degree east longitude.
 - (vi) Active participation in International Maritime Organisation and Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and other international forums.
 - (vii) Submission of Document 27/9/1 at the IMO Assembly for flag states to provide information on welfare of captive crew, efforts of release and also on continued payment of their wages.