

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:678  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012  
AMENDMENT TO MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT  
Kumar Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and Rules, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said amendment has become necessary to ensure that the life of seafarers is made more secure and that their families are paid adequate compensation in the event of loss of life;
- (d) whether the incidents of piracy and attack on vessels have increased in recent times and the Indian seafarers have become vulnerable to such incidents;
- (e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The amendment to Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules 2005 envisages to incorporate the provisions of Maritime Labour Convention 2006 of the International Labour Organisation which provides for comprehensive rights and protection for the seafarers, at work, and aims to achieve decent work conditions for seafarers and to secure their interests.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d) & (e): Details of ships hijacked, with Indian seafarers on board, during the last three years and current year is as follows:

Year    No of Ships hijacked

2009	5
2010	10
2011	9
2012	4

(f): Details thereof are given at Annexure-I.  
Annexure - I

Annexure given in reply to Part (f) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 678

**STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WITH REGARD TO INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ATTACK ON VESSELS AND INDIAN SEAFARERS.**

1. M.S. Notice No.1 of 2011 (No.44-NT(6)/2010) dated 14.1.2011 for providing for elaborate anti-piracy measures (Best Management Practices), including safe house/citadel was issued by the Directorate General of Shipping.

2. M.S. Notice 3/2010 (No.35-NT(2)/2010) dated 31.3.2010 banning of sailing vessels to ply in waters south or west of the line joining Salalah and Male vide the Naval escort provided by Indian naval ships in the Gulf of Aden, since 2008 was issued by the Directorate General of Shipping.

3. Enhanced the vigil by the Indian Navy in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and westward upto 65 degree east longitude.

4. India actively participated in the security meetings of the International Maritime Organization, Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and other international fora.

5. The Document No. 27/9/1 was submitted at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly meeting held at London in November 2011 for flag states to provide information on the welfare of captive crew, efforts for their release and also on continued payment of their wages.

6. As Inter-Ministerial Group of Officers has been constituted in the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India, to deal with any hostage situation arising out of the hijacking, at sea, of merchant vessels with Indian crew on board.