

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2649

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012

SEA PIRACY

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Tandon Annu;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of piracy on the high seas and mid-sea in Asian region are on the increase constantly;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check and the present position thereof;
- (c) whether the sailors in captivity of Somalian pirates have asked for Government help for their release;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the security of ships from India and the allied countries;
- (e) whether there is any positive outcome in this regard after India's declaration with African countries in the India-Africa Forum Summit, 2011; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) No, Madam.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No communication has been received from sailors in captivity of Somalian pirates, however, requests for release have been received from family members of the hostages.
- (d) Various steps have been taken viz., providing for elaborate anti-piracy measures, naval escort by Indian naval ships in the Gulf of Aden, enhanced vigil by the Indian Navy in the Indian EEZ, active participation of India in the meetings on the issue in International fora and issuance of guidelines for allowing deployment of Armed Security Guards in Indian flag Merchant Ships. Government has also deployed one Indian naval warship in the Gulf of Aden for anti piracy patrol since October 2008 and more than 2254 merchant ships have been escorted.
- (e) & (f): India-Africa forum welcomed India's support to efforts to safeguard shipping from piracy and called on all states to cooperate in combating the menace of piracy. All concerned countries are cooperating in the efforts to combat piracy.