

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1946

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013

HOSTAGES BY PIRATES

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Antony Shri Anto;Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) the number of Indian ships attacked and hijacked by sea-pirates during each of the last three years and the current year including the Turkish cargo ships with 24 Indians on board;
- (b) the number of Indian crew members killed or kidnapped, released and also still in captivity during the said period;
- (c) the details of loss of life and property as a result thereof during the above mentioned period, year-wise;
- (d) whether piracy on seas has dropped as on date;
- (e) if so, the comparative details thereof during each of the last five years and the current year; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for the safe release of Indian hostages and also to check the unwanted events of piracy in order to ensure safer merchant activities?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K.VASAN)

(a): No Indian flag merchant ship has been attacked and hijacked during the last three years and the current year. All the merchant ships attacked and hijacked were foreign flag vessels with Indian crew on board. The details of those vessels are given below:-

Year    No. of such  
          ships hijacked

2010    10

2011    09

2012    05

2013 (till date) 02 (including the recent  
hijacking of Turkish cargo ships)

(b) & (c): The details are given below:

Year    No. of Indian    No. of seafarers    No. of Indian    No. of Indians .

seafarers    hijacked/kidnapped    seafarers released    still in pirate  
killed by    by pirates    from pirate custody    captivity at  
pirates    the end of  
the year

2010    Nil    100    97    35 (including  
32 held in  
captivity  
from 2008-09)

2011    Nil    87    84    38

2012    Nil    43    40    41

2013 Nil 27 58 10  
(till date)

No records are maintained about loss of property.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. No incident of a vessel hijacking by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia with involving Indianseafarers is reported since May, 2012. The comparative details for the last five years and the current year are given below:

Year	No. of foreign flag ships hijacked	No. of Indian crew on board such vessels hijacked
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2008	05	63
2009	05	49

2010	10	100
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2011	09	87
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2012	05	43
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2013	02	27
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(till date)

(f) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) set up by the Government under the Ministry of Shipping with representatives from all Ministries and Government agencies concerned, to deal with the hostage situation arising out of the hijacking at sea of merchant vessels with Indian crew on board has been regularly reviewing the situation of Indian hostages under captivity of the pirates. Ministry of External Affairs, through its concerned Missions abroad, continuously seeks the help of the concerned foreign Governments to liaise with ship owners to secure early release of Indian hostages held captive by Somalia pirates. Government has also approved the Contingency Plan for dealing with piracy and hijacking of merchant ships and constituted a Committee of Secretaries on Anti-Piracy and Hijacking at sea (COSAPH) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary for crisis management and to advise the Government on major policy and strategy decisions. In addition to this, the following steps have been initiated by Ministry of Shipping as part of various preventing/mitigating security measures to secure the release of the Indian hostages from the pirates:

- i) M.S. Notice No.1 of 2011 issued providing for elaborate anti-piracy measures (Best Management Practices), including safe house/citadel.
- ii) Banning of sailing vessels to ply in waters south or west of the line joining Salalah and Male vide DGS M.S.Notice No. 3/2010.
- iii) Naval escort provided by Indian naval ships in the Gulf of Aden since 2008.
- iv) Enhanced vigil by the Indian Navy in the Indian EEZ and westward upto 65 degree east longitude.
- v) Active participation of India in the security meetings of the International Maritime Organization, Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and other international fora.
- vi) Submission of Document No.27/9/1 at the IMO Assembly meeting held at London on 21-30.11.2011 for flag states to provide information on the welfare of captive crew, efforts for their release and also on continued payment of their wages.