

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1690
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009
MISSING SHIPS AND SAILORS
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian ships and sailors missed during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of authority who is charged with the responsibility to trace and find such ships and their crews;
- (c) whether the families of such missing personnel are not getting proper response from the Directorate General of Shipping; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to efficiently trace such missing ships and crew members?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): The number of Indian ships and sailors missing during each of the last three years and the current years is as follows:

Sr. No.	Year	Missing Indian Ships (on Indian/Foreign ships)	Missing Indian Sailors
1.	2006	Nil	Statistics not readily available
2.	2007	01	05
3.	2008	Nil	07
4.	2009 (till date)	Nil	09

(b): The world is divided into various Search And Rescue Regions (SRR), to carry out Search and Rescue (SAR), for ships and their crew in distress. The Coastal states establishes Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC), an agency to co-ordinate search and rescue in its designated SRR. The Indian Coast Guard is charged with responsibility to trace and find such ships and their crews within the Indian Search and Rescue Region.

(c): The available information is always provided by the Ministry of Shipping and Director General of Shipping to the families of missing personnel.

(d): The Government has taken following steps for tracing the missing Ships and Crew:-

1. The signals from sea going ships in distress are transmitted by terrestrial mode and/or via satellite to the coastal states, land earth stations and to the ships in the vicinity, in accordance with the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) under Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS 1974) as amended. On receiving the distress signals, the designated MRCC for the concerned region initiates Search and Rescue in accordance with the provisions of the SAR Convention 1979 to which India is a party.
2. It is obligatory on all ships under SOLAS 1974 Convention (as amended from time to time) to render assistance to ships in distress at sea.
3. It is obligatory on all ships on the Indian coast and Indian ships, anywhere in the world, to report any casualty under the provisions of Section 358 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
4. It is obligatory for recruiting company in India, the ship manager or the manning agent, as applicable, who recruits the Indian seafarers on board the foreign flag ships, to report death, disappearance and loss overboard in accordance with Director General of Shipping order No. 5A of 2006.