

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4214
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
CONTACT GROUP ON SOMALIA PIRACY
Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether under certain UN resolution, a Contact Group on Somalia Piracy (CGSP) has been formed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any meeting of the CGSP was held after its formation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decisions taken therein;
- (e) whether India is part of the CGSP; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the role assigned to Indian Navy in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) & (b) An informal inter-governmental consultative mechanism called: Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was formed in January 2009 following UN Security Council Resolution 1851 of December 2008 as a platform for information sharing; coordinating actions of navies of individual countries/naval coalitions (EU Naval Force, Combined Task Force-151 led by the US) engaged in combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden; raising public and merchant marine awareness; and, examining legal/criminal justice issues with respect to apprehended pirates. The CGPCS is a consultative forum. With respect to operations, individual navies and naval coalitions function under their respective command structures.

(c) & (d) The CGPCS has met as follows:

First Plenary Meeting on 14-01-2009 in New York Second Plenary Meeting on 17-03-2009 in Cairo Third Plenary Meeting on 29-05-2009 in New York Fourth Plenary Meeting on 10 September 2009 in New York Communiques reflecting the deliberations and decisions of the above four CGPCS meetings are attached at Annexures I to IV.

(e) & (f) As a founding member of the CGPCS, India has played an active role in all aspects of its work and has participated in its meetings. India has deployed one warship which conducts point to point escort for merchant marine. India is not part of any multi-national naval coalition. However, it coordinates its activities with other navies and naval coalitions in the Gulf of Aden engaged in combating piracy.