

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2667
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015
PIRATES OF VESSELS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of piracy attempts made at Indian merchant vessels along with the number of sailors hijacked during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has also laid down specific guidelines, mechanisms and procedures in order to prevent piracy attempts at sea;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to thwart sea-piracy attempts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a): There have been 3 piracy attempts/attacks made at Indian flag merchant vessels during the last 3 years and the current year as per details at Annexure-I. However, no Indian flag merchant vessel has been hijacked by pirates.

Details of Indian Crew hijacked earlier by Somali pirates and released during the last 3 years and the current year are at Annexure-II.

(b)to(d):An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMGO) was set up by the Government under the Ministry of Shipping to deal with the hostage situation arising out of the hijacking at sea of merchant vessels with Indian crew. 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 Government as part of various preventive/mitigating security measures to deal with sea-piracy:

(i) Guidelines for anti-piracy measures to be implemented on Indian Ships through issue of Merchant Shipping Notice No.1 of 2011 dated 14.1.2011. The guidelines provide for elaborate anti-piracy measures (Best Management Practices), including safe house/citadel for vessels.

(ii) Banning of sailing vessels to ply in waters south or west of the line joining Salalah and Male through Merchant Shipping Notice No. 3/2010 dated 31.3.2010.

(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 Exclusive Economic Zone (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.

Annexures referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2667 for 12.3.2015.

Annexure-I

Details of 3 piracy attempts/attacks made at Indian flag merchant vessels during the last 3 years and the current year :-

Name of merchant vessel	Date of Piracy Attempt	Location
-------------------------	------------------------	----------

Desh Mahima	02.11.2013	Off Bab El Mandeb
Ratna Shruti	28.06.2014	Gulf of Aden
Bon Atlantico	12.08.2014	Off Fujairah

Annexure-II

Details of Indian Crew hijacked earlier by Somali pirates and released during the last 3 years and the current year :-

Sl.No.	Name of the vessel/ flag	Date of hijack of vessel	Date of release of vessel/crew	No. of Indian crew held hostage	Indian crew released
1	Iceberg 1/ Panama	29.03.2010	23.12.2012	6	5#
2	Asphalt Venture/ Panama	29.09.2010	15.04.2011		
		30.10.2014	15	8	
7					
3	Albedo/Malaysia	26.11.2010	05.06.2014	2	1\$
4	Fairchem Bogey/Marshall Is.	20.08.2011	13.01.2012	21	21
5	Enrico Ievoli/ Italy	27.12.2011	23.04.2012	7	7
6	Leila/ Panama	17.02.2012	12.04.2012	11	11
7	Royal Grace/ Panama	02.03.2012	08.03.2013	17	17
8	Eglantine/ Bolivian	26.03.12	02.04.2012	1	1
9	Smyrin/ Liberia	10.05.12	09.03.2013	11	11
	Total		91	89	

Out of the 6 Indian crew, 5 were released in December, 2012 and one crew is reportedly missing.
\$One Indian is reported dead.