

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5210

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2015

THREAT OF SOMALI PIRATES

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Somali pirates are gradually shifting their location towards India;
- (b) if so, whether Somali pirates are a big threat in the Indian Ocean;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the Maritime Security Patrol area to check the role of Somali pirates; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and other steps being taken to tackle the threat of sea pirates?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) to (c): Somali based piracy which reached its peak in 2010-11 has been contained as a result of International Naval efforts and measures adopted by the Shipping Industry. There have been no incidents of piracy in the Eastern Arabian Sea since March 2012. However, the threat of piracy still continues in the Gulf of Aden. The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), an International Group of Governments and Organizations regularly assesses the piracy threat.

(d) & (e): Government has been deploying one Indian Naval Warship in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy patrol since October 2008 and more than 3088 Ships have been escorted. India is represented in the CGPCS which has brought together Countries and International Agencies working towards prevention of piracy. Indian Navy also participates in the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) meetings for exchange of information with other navies operating in the Gulf of Aden.