

(c) if so, by when the proposed payment are to be made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (d) Rs.5.50 crores towards differential dues (compensation, gratuity and leave salary) of the Voluntarily Retired (VR) employees of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has been included in the Financial Restructuring proposal of HSL which is, presently, under consideration of the Government. The dues shall be paid on approval of the proposal by the Government. The pay/wage revision liability of Rs.16.32 crore to the retired/VRS employees is to be made by the Company from its own resources based on improvement in the financial position of the Company.

#### **Abduction of ship near Panama**

||2925. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ship named M.B. Khalik, carrying 24 Indian crew members has been abducted near Panama;

(b) if so, the date and time of its abduction;

(c) whether any steps had been taken by Government for the safety of Indians;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether all Indians have been found to be safe; and

(e) the comprehensive details of the status of this ship?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (e) One vessel, M.V. Al Khaliq, with Panama flag has been hijacked by the pirates with 26 crew members (including 24 Indians) on 22.10.2009 close to the Seychelles Islands about 720 nautical miles East of Mombasa. Its nominated owner is Rosebud Investment Corporation, P.O. 6-4298, EO Dorado, Panama City, Republic of Panama and its beneficiary owner is Mrs. Batul Zaffarali Dattoo, PO Box-90071, Mombasa, Kenya. Directorate General of Shipping has held two meetings with the Managers of the vessel (M/s SNP Shipping) on 23.10.2009 and 04.11.2009. As per information received from the Managers, contact has been established with the vessel and the Master has informed that all crew members on board are safe. It has also been informed that negotiations for release of the crew members are in progress.

#### **Financing plans for port projects**

2926. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned about slow pace of capacity addition in the ports sector, Government has set up a committee to look into financing plans for port projects in the remaining part of current Five Year Plan;

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||Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.