

(a) whether it is a fact that pirates have detained a goods laden Indian ship while it was heading to United Arab Emirates *via* Somalia and the crew members have been taken captive; and

(b) if so, the details of action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai, has been issuing Maritime Security Advisories to the shipping fraternity on the subject of continuing piracy incidents on merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean region. Further, the Directorate has, taking due cognizance of recent spurt in hijacking incidents of dhows, prohibited trading of Indian dhows, south and west of line joining Salalah and Male.

Upgradation of ports on Eastern Coast

2753.SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is taking various steps to upgrade several ports on the Eastern Coast;

(b) if so, whether any step is being taken to upgrade the conditions of Kolkata and Haldia ports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) With the objective to upgrade and modernize port infrastructure in India (which covers both east and west coast) and to enable it to benchmark its performance against global standards, a National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) has been formulated by the Ministry of Shipping.

(b) and (c) To upgrade the Kolkata and Haldia Ports, 40 projects under National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) are envisaged. These projects include development of new terminals, mechanization of berths, procurement of equipments, Port connectivity projects etc.

Modification of Paradip Port Trust

2754.SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of modification of PPT Road from gate No. 4 to Shandhakuda Basti executed by M/s Samal Builders *vide* work order No. CE/HW-11-23/07-457 dated 14 June, 2007;

(b) the reasons for delays on the part of PPT for non-cooperation to handover the 1000m stretch from Gate No. 4 to Hanuman Mandir;

(c) the dues to M/s Samal Builders as on date and the reasons for non-payment by PPT; and

(d) by when PPT would abide by the decision of Hon'ble High Court and release the balance amount to M/s Samal Builders?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) The work modification of PPT Road from Gate No. 4 to Sandhakud Basti has been awarded to M/s Samal Builders Pvt. Ltd. *vide* work order No. CE/HW-11-23/07-457 Dtd 14.06.2007. The Contractor M/s. Samal Builders Pvt. Ltd. abandoned the work *w.e.f.* 24.01.2009 and PPT rescinded the work *vide* letter No. CE/HW-11 -W-23/07/857 Dtd.05.11.2009. Afterwards PPT prepared a fresh estimate for the balance portion of work and put to tender in single stage two bid system. In response to this 4 firms have participated in a tender out of which 2 were pre-qualified and the price bid was opened on 17.03.2010. The work order to the L1 tenderer yet to be issued.

(b) Service lines, such as Electric Cables, Telephone Cables and Water Pipe Line were existing from Gate No.4 to Hanuman Temple (1 km long). The Electric Cable and Telephone Cables has been shifted in time. But the Water Pipelines from 1 km. stretch could not be removed during the stipulated period and therefore the handing over of the site from Gate No. 4 to Hanuman Temple was delayed. The contractor was also granted reasonable time extension on the above ground.

(c) The contractor has been paid with the full amount for the work executed by them as per actual measurement recorded in measurement book. No balance payment is due to the contractor.

(d) As per orders of Hon'ble High Court of Orissa a Committee has been formed by the PPT to resolve the payment related issues with M/s. Samal Builders Pvt. Ltd. The Committee resolved that the claim of contractor is concocted and exorbitant. The Committee has also considered payment of escalation to the contractor amounting to Rs. 3.07 Lakhs based on RBI index for the period of Nine Months in accordance with value of work executed by the firm during the extended time. The same has been communicated to the contractor *vide* letter No. CE/HW-11 -W-23/07(P.T.IV)/219 Dt. 11.03.2010.