

### Hijacking of Indian vessels by Somalian pirates

†\*139. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the pirates of Somalia who are using lost boats/ships/vessels of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian ships/vessels seized or abducted along with the sailors/travellers by the Somalian pirates during the last two years and current year have been searched for and got freed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken with the help of other affected countries for permanent solution of this problem?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Government, there is a possibility, of Indian dhows being used as mother ships by pirates.

(c) and (d) No Indian merchant ship has been seized by pirates so far. Also no Indian Mechanized Sailing Vessel is reported to be in the captivity of Somalian pirates at present. The particulars of Indian Mechanized Sailing (commonly known as dhows) hijacked in 2008, 2009 and current year with Indian sailors are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Vessel	Flag	Hijacked on	No. of Indian Nationals	Released on
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	MSV Shiv Shamboo	Indian	20.10.2008	14	25.10.2008
2.	MSV AL Rafiqi	Indian	21.03.2009	15	Released
3.	MSV Shehenshah — E-Madina	Indian	Exact date not known	16	Released
4.	MSV Vishwa Kalyan	Indian	14.6.2009	15	Released
5.	MSV Nafeya	Indian	10.07.2009	14	In July end 2009
6.	MSV Shri Narayan	Indian	22.11.2009	14	08.12.2009
7.	MSV Nafaya	Indian	18.12.2009	14	23.02.2010
8.	MSV Lasmi Sagar	Indian	11.12.2009	14	14.12.2009

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	MSV Faize Osmania	Indian	28.01.2010	14	01.02.2010
10.	MSV Jayshree Sagar	Indian	26.01.2010	18	23.03.2010
11.	MSV AL-Kadri	Indian	28.03.2010	14	04.04.2010
12.	MSV Krishna Jyot	Indian	24.03.2010	15	03.04.2010
13.	MSV Nar Narayan	Indian	28.03.2010	19	07.04.2010
14.	MSV Faize Osamani	Indian	28.03.2010	12	05.04.2010
15.	MSV Sea Queen	Indian	28.03.2010	11	03.04.2010
16.	MSV Safina Al Gayatri	Indian	03.04.2010	21	04.04.2010
17.	MSV Vishwa Kalyan	Indian	27.03.2010	15	10/11.4.2010

(e) Does not arise.

(d) The problem of piracy off the Somali coast has been deliberated extensively and periodically in International Maritime Organisation (IMO) by the member States in the Maritime Safety Committees and Council meetings. Based on the recommendations of IMO, the matter was raised in the United Nations Security Council and it has passed a number of resolutions to encourage international cooperation to address the menace of piracy. IMO has also issued several resolutions and Best Management Practices which are shared with stakeholders regularly. The UN-supported Contact Group for Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, in which India is also a party, is also addressing the matter on a regular basis in order to find a lasting solution to the problem.

#### **Crumbling of ground level in KG basin**

\*140. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been made about the crumbling of ground level in KG basin due to extraction of gas;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) A write petition no. 13341/08 has been filed by Krishna Godavari Deltala Parirakshana Simiti and other before Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh expressing apprehensions that exploitation of oil and gas in Krishna Godavari onland area is likely to cause geo-hazards like Land subsidence, earthquakes and even sliding of delta land into the deep sea, as happened in similar situations in other parts of the world.

The Hon'ble High Court has directed (29th June, 2009) Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to constitute an expert appraisal committee (EAC) to study and submit a report on the