

inland water transit and trade and freight for transportation of cargo under demonstrative voyages by IWAI vessels. The charges collected for various services on this National Waterway during last two years are given below:

Year	
2008-09	Rs. 32.83 lakhs
2009-10	Rs. 94.22 lakhs

Maintenance and improvement of the infrastructure is a continuous process depending upon the demand from actual users of the waterway.

#### **Ports capacity to handle increased traffic**

1658. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ports of India are incapable of handling the increasing marine traffic;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any special steps to control the increasing marine traffic;
- (c) whether Government is planning to set up new port; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) It is not true that Ports of India are incapable of handling the increasing Marine Traffic as the capacity of Indian Ports as on 31.3.2010 was 992.83 million tonnes (Major Ports - 616.73 million tonnes and Non-Major Ports 376.10 million tonnes), against which the traffic handled at Indian Ports was 849.89 million tonnes (Major Ports - 561.09 million tonnes and Non-Major Ports - 288.80 million tonnes).

(c) and (d) Yes. Sir, Government is planning to set up two Major Ports one each on East Coast and West Coast.

#### **Ships hijacked by pirates**

1659. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of merchant/cargo ships hijacked by the pirates on the international waters of the Indian Ocean during 2010;

(b) the total number of crews of Indian origin who have been working in such hijacked ships and taken hostages by the pirates and the present status/whereabouts of these hijacked Indian crew; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government, on its own or in association with other countries, to curb the increasing menace of pirates to international sea transport?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) During 2010, total 49 ships were hijacked from the international waters of the Indian Ocean.

(b) The present status of foreign flag vessels with Indian seafarers presently in captivity on board is detailed below:

Sl. No	Ships under hijack with Indian crew	Date of hijack	Number of Indian crew members	Reported position	Status
1.	Iceberg -1	29/3/2010	6	Somali coast	Crew reported safe
2.	Rak Afrikana	11/4/2010	11	Somali coast	Crew reported safe
3.	Suez	2/8/2010	6	Somali coast	Crew reported safe
4.	Asphalt Venture	29/9/2010	15	Somali coast	Crew reported safe
TOTAL			38		

(c) Following initiatives have been taken by Government to combat sea pirates in the maritime zones:

- (i) Deployment of Indian naval ship to protect Indian interest.
- (ii) Coordination of transit of Indian interest with Indian Navy by 24x7 Communication Centre located at the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Commcentre).
- (iii) DGCommcentre immediately alerts Indian navy, Indian Coast Guard and co-ordinate with other international security forces operating in the region in cases of any report about pirate attack on Indian interest.
- (iv) Immediate alerting of the Indian naval ship and international security forces in the region in cases of any report about ongoing pirate attack on Indian interest.

- (v) Regular participation by Indian delegation in the deliberation of Working Group of International Contact Group at United Nations to develop and implement national/international counter piracy policy and programmes.
- (vi) Interventions in various International Maritime organization (IMO) Meetings and supporting all such interventions by other Member States urging the International community to address the menace of piracy.
- (vii) UN Security Council Resolutions 1816, 1838, 1846 and 1851 and various IMO circulars and guidelines issued to address piracy related concerns.
- (viii) Advisory on safe house and best management practices to Indian ship owners.

**Tonnage handled at Haldia, Paradeep and Kandla ports**

1660. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the total tonnage handed at Haldia, Paradeep and Kandla ports in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years thus far;
- (b) whether it is a fact that total shipping activity in Gujarat ports is increasing;
- (c) if so, the steps that would be taken to locate a full-fledged office of the DG Shipping at Gandhinagar or at Surat;
- (d) whether it is a fact that people in Gujarat have to access and visit Mumbai for all work connected with DG Shipping; and
- (e) the steps proposed to bifurcate the existing DG Shipping office and locate one office in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) Total tonnage handled at Haldia, Paradeep and Kandla Ports during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as under:

(In Million tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the Port	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (upto February)
1.	Haldia	41.79	33.38	28.92
2.	Paradeep	46.41	57.01	46.12
3.	Kandla	72.25	79.50	68.75

- (b) Yes, Sir.