

2. Issuance of Notice by Director General of Shipping detailing elaborate anti-piracy measures (Best Management Practices) including safe house/citadel.
3. Banning of sailing vessels to ply in waters south or west of the line joining Salalah and Male.
4. Naval escort provided by Indian Naval Ships in Gulf of Aden.
5. Enhanced vigil by Indian Navy in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and westward upto 65 degree east longitude.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Two recent incidents of research vessels being affected by the threat of Piracy in the Arabian Sea region have been reported. The scientists were advised to move away from the Piracy affected zones.

Ports Regulatory Authority

1354. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's move to bring all major and non-major ports in the country under a regulatory regime through creation of Ports Regulatory Authority has run into rough weather;

(b) whether it is a fact that several maritime States which at present control the non-major ports in their respective State have opposed Government's move;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has any proposal to modify the draft of Ports Authority Bill; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Only a few Maritime States have opposed Government's move.

(c) The basic apprehension of the maritime States is that the Bill intends to take away the autonomy and freedom of maritime states in promoting investments in port sector.

(d) and (e) The Government is yet to finalise the Draft Port Regulatory Bill and the proposed Bill will be finalised in consultation with various stakeholders.

Ferry service from Rameshwaram to Thalaimannar

1355. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is fixing a date to start Rameshwaram to Thaliannannar (Sri Lanka) ferry service; and