

Cargo handling capacity of Indian ports

1975. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian port cargo handling capacity, connectivity and processes still lag behind the global standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of Indian ports?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of Indian ports are (i) Capacity expansion by Dredging (ii) Construction of Berths (iii) Mechanization of ports (iv) improving connectivity.

Attack on Indian ships

1976. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPPNG be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that shipping industry is hard-hit by pirates during the last few years;

(b) the details of Indian ships attacked or taken into their custody by pirates during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to enact anti-piracy law to protect shippers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that shipping industry is hard hit by pirates during the last few years.

(b) No Indian Merchant Ship has been hijacked so far, except Mechanized Sailing Vessels (MSVs). The details of Indian ships/MSV as per records available attacked or hijacked by sea-pirates during each of the last three years and the current year is as under: