

- (iii) Customs duty @ 10% (Basic Duty) plus Additional Duty, Counterveiling Duty and Cess totaling 26.85% Is applicable on the capital items imported for shipbuilding works.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of India had extended Ship building subsidy scheme to all Indian Shipyards with effect from 25th October 2002 upto the period 14th August 2007, whereafter it expired. However, subsidy is being provided to all eligible shipbuilding contracts concluded upto 14th August 2007. The Ministry of Shipping has taken up with the Department concerned the need for grant of various direct/indirect tax incentives for the growth of shipbuilding sector.

Maritime cooperation with Pakistan

3829. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have agreed to greater maritime cooperation between the two countries on terror at sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A hotline communication link between Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) was set up in November, 2006. Further, in the last Home Secretary level talks in March 2011 both sides agreed to task the ICG and PMSA to work on setting up a mechanism for release of inadvertent crossers (fishermen) and their boats on the same lines as the inadvertent crossers on land.

A Protocol on Shipping services was also signed in December, 2006 between India and Pakistan, in which it has been, *inter-alia*, agreed that if a vessel of either country be involved in maritime peril or encounters any other danger off the coast or in the ports of the other country, the vessel, the cargo, the crew and the passengers shall receive the same assistance which is accorded to a national vessel, its cargo, crew and passengers. This will be subject to the respective laws and international obligations of the two countries.

Attacked Indian ships during last three years

3830. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of pirates attacking Indian ships that have been reported in the last three years; and

(b) the steps that have been taken by Government to combat piracy in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) A total of 15 attacks by pirates on Indian ships have taken place during the last three years. However, none of these ships were hijacked.

(b) The Government has taken the following measures to combat piracy:

- (i) An Inter-Ministerial Group of Officers has been set up to deal with hostage situation arising out of the hijacking of merchant vessels with Indian crew on board.
- (ii) A Notice has been issued by the Directorate General of Shipping detailing elaborate anti-piracy measures (Best Management Practices) including safe house/citadel.
- (iii) Sailing vessels banned to ply in waters south or west of line joining Salalah and Male.
- (iv) Naval escort provided by Indian Naval Ships in Gulf of Aden.
- (v) Enhanced vigil by Indian Navy in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and westward up to 65 degree east longitude.
- (vi) Guidelines for deployment of armed guards on Indian merchant ships issued.
- (vii) The Directorate General of Shipping under Ministry of Shipping has issued a notice on 7.3.2012 for the safe navigation of merchant ships on Indian coast and advising all merchant vessels to take note of dense fishing traffic on the Indian coast. Merchant Ships have been advised to navigate with extreme caution when approaching upto 50 nautical miles from the Indian coast. Indian Coast Guard has also issued a warning on 23.2.2012 in which all vessels have been warned that fishing is carried out upto 50 nautical miles from the coast and vessels should not mistake fishing boats as skiffs and Piracy Armed Groups (PAGs).

Fast development of Ports

3831. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to fast-develop Indian ports with a view to improve the functioning thereof;