

**Legislation for prosecution of sea-pirates**

2054. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has felt that lack of domestic piece of legislation hinders the prosecution of sea-pirates who are targeting Indian sailors in and around Somalia; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to end this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) With a view to provide the necessary legal framework for effective prosecution of pirates in India, the Piracy Bill, 2012 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on April 24, 2012. Taking into consideration the views of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on the Bill and subsequent Inter-Governmental consultations, Official Amendments to the Bill have been introduced and the Bill is expected to be considered in the current Session of the Parliament. Once enacted, the Bill is expected to promote the safety and security of India's maritime trade, including the safety of our crew members and vessels, by acting as a deterrent for the pirates.

**Infrastructure development along border**

2055. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has proposed freezing of infrastructure development along the border under a new pact Border Defence Co-operation Agreement (BDCA), and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether India has rejected the proposal as it is in the process of building infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Indian role in development of Africa**

2056. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether similar to China, India is trying to play a strategic role in the