

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SHIPPING**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 15.12.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**ABDUCTION OF SHIP NEAR PANAMA .**

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Dr. Yogendra P. Trivedi

Will the Minister of COALCOALSHIPPING be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the ship named M.B. Khalik, carrying 24 Indian crew members has been abducted near Panama;
- (b) if so, the date and time of its abduction;
- (c) whether any steps had been taken by Government for the safety of Indians;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether all Indians have been found to be safe; and
- (e) the comprehensive details of the status of this ship?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING

(SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) to (e): One vessel, M.V. Al Khaliq, with Panama flag has been hijacked by the pirates with 26 crew members (including 24 Indians) on 22.10.2009 close to the Seychelles Islands about 720 nautical miles East of Mombasa. Its nominated owner is Rosebud Investment Corporation, P.O. 6-4298, EO Dorado, Panama City, Republic of Panama and its beneficiary owner is Mrs. Batul Zaffarali Dato, PO Box-90071, Mombasa, Kenya. Directorate General of Shipping has held two meetings with the Managers of the vessel (M/s SNP Shipping) on 23.10.2009 and 04.11.2009. As per information received from the Managers, contact has been established with the vessel and the Master has informed that all crew members on board are safe. It has also been informed that negotiations for release of the crew members are in progress.