

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-26
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/12/2022

RESCUE OF DETAINED SHIP MT HEROIC IDUM

26. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken by Government to rescue the detained ship MT Heroic Idum near Nigeria;
- (b) the reason for the detention of this ship and the manner in which Government intervened to ensure the safety of the crew members; and
- (c) by when the detained crew members are expected to be rescued and brought back to India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *26 REGARDING “RESCUE OF DETAINED SHIP MT HEROIC IDUM” TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022.

(a) The Government is aware of the detention of the ship MT Heroic Idun since August 2022 and has been engaged with relevant authorities on the matter through our Missions in Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria. They are also in touch with the OSM Shipping Company. The detained crew members are about 26 which includes nationalities of India (16), Poland, Philippines and Sri Lanka. Our Mission in Abuja is extending all consular services to ensure the safety and welfare of the Indian crew members aboard the vessel MT Heroic Idun and working towards their early release.

(b) As per the charge sheet filed on 14 November 2022 by the Nigerian side in the Court, three charges have been leveled against the crew members which include conspiracy, evasion of lawful interception, and unlawful export of crude oil.

(c) Mission has sought assistance of the Nigerian authorities and through legal means for expeditious finalization of the legal process for the early release of the Indian crew members.
