

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1993
ANSWERED ON- 12/12/2023

IMPACT OF ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT ON INDIA

1993. # SMT. MAHUA MAJI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) the details of special measures that are being taken by Government to safeguard India's energy security in view of the possible disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea due to the Israel-Iran conflict; and

(b) the diplomatic efforts being made by Government to mitigate the impact of this conflict on India's trade routes, especially the Suez Canal and the Red Sea?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a & b) India remains concerned at the evolving situation in West Asia. Attacks against commercial vessels in and around the Red Sea threaten freedom of navigation and impact our trade. Government has raised the issue with countries in the region and our Missions are closely monitoring the situation to mitigate its impact.

Government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy that includes diversifying supply sources, enhancing domestic production of oil & gas, expanding the adoption of alternate energy sources and advancing the energy transition. Indian Navy is deployed in the region under 'Operation Sankalp' to enhance maritime security, proactively respond to any contingency and ensuring protection of Indian Flagged Merchant Vessels, Indian seafarers and Indian cargo. Till date, 30 ships embarked with integral helicopters, and air surveillance platforms have been deployed in these zones, effectively responding to over 24 incidents, thereby saving more than 350 lives. This includes 120 crew members of various nationalities. As part of these operations, more than 1000 vessels were either boarded or investigated in the Arabian Sea. Some of the notable anti-piracy operations undertaken by Indian Navy include MV Lila Norfolk (release of Crew), MV Ruen (release of crew and apprehension of pirates), and release of FVs Iman and FV Naeemi etc. Vessels carrying critical commodities for India are being actively monitored and safeguarded during their transit. Indian Navy ships have ensured safe transit of nearly 91 lakh MT cargo onboard over 250 vessels so far.
