

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION FAQ NO.494  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022**

**SAILORS DETAINED BY GUINEA NAVY**

**494. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:**

Will the minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fifteen Indian sailors have been detained by Guinea Navy recently and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether these sailors have been handed over to Nigerian authorities, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these sailors including three from Kerala have had no contact with their family members since then as their phones have been seized; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to secure their release along with the present status of their detainees?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) to (d) 16 Indian sailors including 3 persons belonging to Kerala were detained by the Equatorial Guinea Navy on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Later on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Equatorial Guinea handed over the shipyard crew to Nigeria. On hearing of the detention of the ship MT Heroic Idun, both our Missions in Malabo and Abuja contacted the local authorities and the Shipping Company OSM and extended all consular services to ensure the safety and welfare of the Indian crew members aboard the vessel MT Heroic Idun. Our Mission in Nigeria has sought assistance of the Nigerian authorities and through legal means for expeditious release of the Indian crew members. It is the endeavour of the Government to ensure that the 16 crew members are treated fairly and that their early return home is facilitated.

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