

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592
ANSWERED ON 09/12/2022

STATUS OF INDIAN CREW ABROAD

592. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the current status of the Indian crew abroad on the oil tanker MT heroic Idun;
- (b) whether the Government has initiated action to secure the release of the Indian crew members, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has extended assistance to the families of the detained crew members;
- (d) the details of Indian seafarers detained or jailed during the last four years, country-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken action to assist the detainees and their families, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (c) The 26 crew members including 16 Indian nationals are presently under custody of Nigerian authorities aboard MT Heroic Idun from 12th November, 2022. Indian Mission in Abuja has sought assistance of the Nigerian authorities and through legal means for legal assistance for early release of the Indian crew members. The Mission has also extended consular access to ensure the safety and welfare of the detained Indian crew members.

The issue was raised by Hon'ble Home Minister of India during his bilateral meeting in New Delhi with the Interior Minister of Nigeria on 18th November, 2022 and sought their early release. The next hearing at the Nigerian Federal High Court in Port Harcourt is on 10th-12th January, 2023.

The Shipping Company has hired the services of an experienced lawyer, handling maritime cases in Nigeria. The Shipping company has also hired a Shipping Agency to cater to the day to day needs of the crew on the ship. The Government is also regularly updating the families of the seafarers about the present position of the case as well as the actions taken to expedite the process.

(d) The details of Indian seafarers detained or jailed during the last four years, country-wise, is as under:

S.No.	Country	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (till date)
1	Equatorial Guinea	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	16
2	China	Nil	2	22	Nil	Nil
3	Ivory Coast	NIL	NIL	NIL	2	NIL
4	Egypt	Nil	Nil	Nil	25	Nil
5	Indonesia	NIL	67	NIL	67	17
6	Iran	31	40	18	9	12
7	Italy	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
8	Mauritius	Nil	Nil	6	Nil	Nil
9	Nigeria	0	5	5	7	16
10	Qatar	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
11	Romania	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12	Senegal	0	0	0	4	0
13	Trinidad & Tobago	NIL	NIL	17	NIL	NIL
14	Tanzania	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
15	Yemen	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7

(e) Yes sir. As mentioned in reply 'a to c' above.
