

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.*230

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 2013/PHALGUNA 22, 1934 (SAKA)

SECURITY OF COUNTRY'S COASTLINE

*230. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security of coastline of the country is an integral part of the overall security of the nation;

(b) whether there is sufficient number of security forces available for coastal security;

(c) if not, whether fishermen can be used to get valuable information relating to national security;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government to make fishermen aware about security issues related to coastal area;

(e) whether the Central Government is planning any such type of programmes; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon and by when?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 230 FOR 13.03.2013.

(a)&(b): Security of the coastline of the country is an integral part of the overall security of the nation and adequate security measures have been taken. A three tier coastal security ring all along our coast is provided by Marine Police, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy. Government has initiated several measures to strengthen Coastal Security, which includes improving surveillance mechanism and enhanced patrolling by following an integrated approach. Joint Operational Exercises are conducted on regular basis among Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police, Customs and others to check the effectiveness of this approach adopted for security of coastal areas including island territories. Further, continuous review and monitoring of various mechanisms have been established by the Government at different levels, involving various agencies, including the State / Union Territory authorities. The intelligence mechanism has also been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centers and multi-agency coordination mechanism. Installation of radars covering the country's entire coastline and islands is also an essential part of this process.

The coastal States/UTs carried out vulnerability/gap analysis in consultation with Coast Guard to firm up their additional requirements for formulation of Phase-II Scheme of the Coastal Security. After getting detailed proposals from the coastal States/UTs. Coastal Security Scheme Phase-II was approved.

(c) to (f): The fishermen are being used as 'eyes and ears' to get valuable information relating to coastal/national security for intelligence gathering. Indian Coast Guard is regularly conducting community interaction programmes in fishermen habitations along the coastline, to get valuable information relating to coastal/national security. The community interaction programmes are aimed at sensitizing the fishing community on security issues. Training programmes are also being conducted by coastal States, for security awareness of fishermen during the lean period of monsoon. Since 2009, a total number of 1821 community security awareness programmes have been conducted by the Indian Coast Guard.
