

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2171

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH JULY, 2014/SRAVANA 8, 1936 (SAKA)

SECURITY OF PORTS OF THE COUNTRY

†2171. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the security of ports of the country rest on the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of security arrangements put in place by Government so that the incidents like Mumbai terrorist attack of 26 November, 2009 do not occur; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): At present, there are 12 major ports and 203 minor ports in the country. As per the Indian Ports Act, 1908, responsibility of developing a major port is with the Central Government. Further, these major ports are governed by Major Ports Trust Act, 1963. All 12 major ports are guarded by the Central industrial Security Force (CISF). Besides, Port Blair, a non-major Port, has also been developed by the Central Government and is guarded by the CISF. Periodic security audit of the major ports are undertaken by the Central Security Agencies and the implementation of the recommendations of such security audits are monitored.

However, the responsibility of developing and providing security to the other non-major (minor) ports lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations concerned. The Central Security Agencies also conduct security audit in respect of some minor ports and reports and recommendation of such security audit are sent to the Port authorities/agencies concerned for appropriate action.

(b) to (c): Security arrangements put in place by the government includes - (i) joint patrolling along with coasts of Gujarat and Maharashtra by the Indian Coast Guard, Custom and Police, (ii) opening of Marine Police Stations, check posts and out posts under the Coastal Security Scheme (CSS) Phase-I, and (iii) opening of more Marine Police Stations, supply of more boats, Rigid Inflatable Boats, large vessels and construction of jetties, as part of the infrastructure of strengthening coastal security is envisaged in Coastal Security Scheme, Phase-II.

After the Mumbai terrorist attack of 26 November, 2009 following steps have been initiated to prevent similar incidents.

- (i) Creation of "National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security against threats from the Sea (NCSMCS)"
- (ii) Opening of Joint Operation Centres (JOCs) at Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam, Kochi and Port Blair for sharing intelligence among various agencies.
- (iii) Nine additional Coast Guard Stations at Karwar, Ranagiri, Vadinar, Minicoy, Hutbay, Androth Karaikal, Gopalpur and Nizamapatnam have been opened.
- (iv) Installation of transponders on boats, which would help in identifying Indian boats from a distance.
- (v) Issuance of biometric ID cards to fishermen by Department of Fisheries and National Resident Cards by Registrar General of India (RGI) to check terrorist trying to sneak into India under the garb of fishermen.
- (vi) Regular Coastal Security exercise involving all the stakeholders and security agencies along the Coast in all the states by Indian Coast Guard.