

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 230
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd February, 2024

MARITIME SECURITY

230. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether special measures are being taken by the Government to secure the sea routes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any international initiative to enhance maritime security in the Arabian Sea; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Indian Navy units are regularly deployed on Mission Based Deployments in our areas of interest in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to enhance maritime security. Further, Indian Navy units undertake surveillance to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness and address contingencies that may arise. Since 2008, Indian Navy has deployed units in Gulf of Aden and East coast of Africa towards antipiracy patrols. A total of 3440 ships and over 25000 seafarers have been safely escorted.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with regional and extra-regional navies/maritime forces, to promote maritime security in the IOR. Bilateral/multilateral maritime exercises, Joint EEZ surveillance, Coordinated Patrols (CORPATs) with Friendly Foreign Countries are being undertaken by Indian Navy to enhance maritime security and countering non-traditional threats in an inclusive and cooperative manner. Further, towards strengthening of regional maritime security, Government of India has established Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) which has linkages with 25 partner nations and over 40 international multinational organisations for real time information exchange towards enhancing maritime security. Moreover, due to the ongoing maritime security situation in the region, Indian Navy units are being deployed off Djibouti / Gulf of Aden, in the North / Central Arabian Sea / off East Coast of Somalia for protection of Merchant Vessels / rendering assistance, if required. In addition, information exchange / intelligence sharing is also being undertaken with Friendly Foreign Countries to identify the source / reason /players involved in the attacks / incidents.
