GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HOME AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3365 ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011 COASTAL POLICING Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether threats to coastal cities still persist in spite of investment of billions of rupees on coastal security in the aftermath of 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the police forces in the coastal States are not adequately prepared to deal with terrorist threats due to ill-designed craft, ill-trained and unequipped crews and insufficient critical equipment;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to protect the coastal and border areas of the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam, inputs received by security agencies shows the threat to coastal cities from Pan Islamic terrorist outfits.

(c) & (d): No, Madam, the police forces in the coastal States / UTs are well trained, adequately equipped and prepared to deal with terrorist threats.

(e): The Government has been, on continuing basis, reviewing the security arrangements in the light of emerging challenges, including terrorist incidents, and a number of significant steps have been taken to enhance the level of preparedness to counter terror attacks, to strengthen the intelligence and security apparatus, and to strengthen legislative and investigative provisions to counter terrorism. Multi Agency Centre (MAC). has been' vitalized for sharing such inputs with Nodal Officers of concerned agencies. which are constituents of MAC for further developing the intelligence inputs and taking necessary measures to counter the threats. With a view to strengthen coastal security of the country, the following important, decisions/initiatives have been taken:

The Indian Navy has been designated as the authority responsible for overall maritime security which includes coastal security and offshore security. The Indian Coast Guard is additionally designated as the authority responsible for coastal security in territorial waters including areas to be patrolled by Coastal Police. The Director General Coast Guard has been designated as Commander Coastal Command responsible for overall coordination between Central and State Agencies in all matters relating to coastal security.

The Coastal Security Scheme (Phase -1), which provides for setting up of 73 coastal police stations, 97 check posts, 58 outposts and 30. operational barracks, equipped, with 204 vessels and vehicles, in the coastal States and four coastal Union Territories, has been implemented from 2005-06 to March 2011. The implementation of Coastal Security Scheme (Phase - II) for a period of five years has commenced with effect from 15t April, 2011. The Scheme envisages opening of 131 Marine Police Stations, 60 jetties and 10 marine operation centers equipped with 180 boats, 35 RIBs (Rigid Inflatable Boats), 10 large vessels (A&N), 131 Four wheelers and 242 motorcycles.