

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:101

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011

COASTAL SECURITY

Raghavan Shri M. K.; Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has provided adequate financial and logistical support for beefing up coastal security in view of the incidents of piracy reported recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formed any task force to keep constant vigil over the Lakshadweep Islands and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish permanent military base in the Lakshadweep Islands on the lines of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 101 FOR ANSWER ON 8.8.2011

Government attaches utmost importance to nation's coastal security and surveillance including those of island territories. Towards this end, both Navy and Coast Guard have been strengthened in terms of assets, equipment, manpower and infrastructure in coastal states and island territories. Various measures to strengthen Coastal Security include 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. The intelligence mechanism has also been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centres and multi-agency coordination mechanism.

Under the Coastal Security Scheme measures for strengthening Marine police force of the coastal States and Union Territories have been taken.

A joint Navy and Coast Guard Operation 'Island Watch' has been carried out off the Lakshadweep Islands since December 2010 for maintaining surveillance off the Lakshadweep group of islands, to strengthen maritime security, especially against piracy in the region. In addition, ships and aircraft were also deployed for surveillance in Lakshadweep Islands. Coast Guard has commissioned Coast Guard District Headquarters No.12 at Kavaratti and Coast Guard Station at Minicoy in December 2010 to enhance operations in Lakshadweep Islands. Upgradation of infrastructure for both Navy and Coast Guard is an ongoing process and depends upon the threat perception.