

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3978  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011  
INTRUSION IN A N ISLANDS  
De Dr. Ratna

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are prone to intrusion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared a contingency plan to tackle the intrusion activities through the coastal routes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a)to(d): The A&N Islands are strategically located over-looking the eastern access into the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal, they have a long coastline needing constant surveillance. Instances of illegal poaching by foreign fishermen have been noticed in recent times. Measures to contain the menace include strict action against the poachers, diplomatic initiatives with their Governments and enhanced surveillance and patrolling by our security agencies in the Islands.

Government attaches utmost importance to nation's coastal security. Vigilance and surveillance, including on the A&N Islands, is constantly maintained. Towards this end, both Navy and Coast Guard have been strengthened in terms of assets, equipments, manpower and infrastructure. 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 with Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police, Customs and other stakeholders to check the effectiveness of new approach adopted for security of coastal areas including island territories. The intelligence mechanism has also been streamlined with the creation of Joint Operation Centers and multi-agency coordination mechanism. Other measures include setting up of AIS chain on the A&N Islands.