

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7278  
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012  
SAFETY FOR FISHERMEN  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognisance of the increasing safety challenges being faced by the Indian fishermen especially from foreign vessels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken to increase safety of the fishermen?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 7278 FOR ANSWER ON 21.5.2012

Protecting our fishermen is an important task included in the Charter of duties of the Indian Coast Guard. Some foreign vessels are transiting very close to Indian West Coast to avoid piracy attack by Somalian pirates, leading to their transgression into the fishing zone utilized by Indian fishermen. Regular patrolling and air surveillance by Indian Coast Guard are conducted to ensure coastal security. Various Information Sharing Centres dealing with the piracy issues in the region have been apprised about the fishing activities off the Indian coast and requested to issue advisory for merchant vessels transiting the area to be careful about small fishing boats. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre based at Kuala Lumpur has already issued such advisory for merchant vessels transiting the area to be careful about small fishing boats. In addition, UK Maritime Trade Organisation (UKMTO) and the Information Sharing Centre (ISC) established at Singapore under the Regional Cooperation Agreement for Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) have also been approached by ICG for issuing necessary advisory to the mariners transiting the area about fishing activities to be encountered off Indian coast.

A Navigational Warning 'NAVAREA' has also been issued by the Chief Hydrographer of India sensitizing the transiting merchant traffic about fishing activities in area. The Director General Shipping has also issued a Notice to apprise the shipping community about the fishing activities on the South West coast of India.

Besides, ICG conducts regular community interaction programmes with the fishing community to apprise them about safety measures to be observed to ensure safety at sea.