

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:498  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012  
SEA LANES OF COMMUNICATION  
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Sea Lanes of Communication are being used for human trafficking and other illegal activities;
- (b) if so, whether the security forces contemplate any steps to check its misuse; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): Extensive surveillance is maintained by the maritime forces around the sea lanes of communication passing through our Exclusive Economic Zone and Territorial Waters. The Government accords top priority to maritime security of the country through increased coastal surveillance by deployment of the assets of both Navy and Coast Guard. The inputs received by intelligence agencies are being shared on daily basis through the Multi-agency Mechanism. This intelligence mechanism has been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centers. In order to improve preparedness and seamless integration of various security agencies, Joint Operational Exercises are taking place on regular basis among the Navy, the Coast Guard, the State Police, Customs and others.