

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:900

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

COASTAL SECURITY

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to involve common citizens in the protection of coastal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to start electronic surveillance network for coastal areas in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to protect the coastal areas of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): Common citizens, including fishermen, living in villages in coastal areas are always involved in the protection of coastal areas, Training programme are also being conducted for security awareness of fishermen during the lean period of monsoon.

(c) to (d): Surveillance equipments like Night Vision Devices, Automatic Identification System (AIS), Global Positioning System (GPS) and Transponders, etc. are used for guarding the coastal areas. The Coast Guard has taken steps to create a chain of radar sensors along the coastline, including setting up 9 additional coast guard stations on the western coastline of the country.

(e): The measures taken by the Government to protect the coastal areas of the country are:-

(i) 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 has been 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.

(ii) Ministry of Shipping has been mandated to streamline the process of compulsory registration of all types of vessels, i.e. fishing as well as non-fishing vessels, and also to ensure fitting/provision of Automatic Identification System (AIS) on these boats.

(iii) Department of Fisheries has taken steps to issue biometric ID cards to all the fishermen.

(iv) The Registrar General of India (RGI) has been mandated to issue Multi-purpose National Identity Cards (MNICs) to the population in the coastal villages, including fishermen.

(v) Standard operating procedures for all coastal States/UTs have been finalized.

(vi) Navy has set up 4 joint operation centre at Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kochi and Portblair under the charge of existing naval C-in-Cs as the C-in-Cs Coastal Defence. A Sagar Prahari Bal with a special force comprising in 1000 personnel and 80 Fast Interceptor Crafts for force security protecting of naval basis and co-located vulnerable areas and vulnerable points has also been raised/equipped.

(vii) Joint coastal security exercises like 'Sagar Kavach', conducted biannually, have been very useful and have ushered in an era of synergy in joint operations. Modalities have been worked out to disseminate the lessons learnt in each exercise for the benefit of all other coastal States/UTs. The lessons learnt are communicated to all stakeholders, to fill the gaps.