

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:990  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013  
SEIZURE OF SATELLITE PHONES  
Pandey Saroj

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

- (a) whether a ship containing satellite phones was seized by the Indian Coast Guard at Mumbai coast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;and
- (c) the action plan formulated by the Government to check such incidents in future?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) On 3rd April 2013, the Indian Coast Guard received information on alleged use of a Thuraya satellite phone on board Merchant Shipping Vessel Yusufi. The vessel was seized and handed over to Yellow Gate police station, Mumbai.

(c) Government has accorded top priority to strengthening the mechanism ensuring overall coastal and 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. Further this intelligence mechanism has been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centres. In order to improve preparedness and seamless integration of various security agencies against such threats, Joint Operational exercises are taking place on regular basis among the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Coastal State Police, Customs and others.