

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:770
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
ILLEGAL ENTRY OF FOREIGN VESSELS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has come across instances of foreign vessels illegally entering territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone of the country for fishing purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such illegal infiltration pose a serious security threat and cause huge economic loss to the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) to (d): Instances of illegal fishing in Indian waters by foreign fishermen come to the notice of Government from time to time. A total of 233 foreign boats and 1686 foreign crew were apprehended by the Indian Coast Guard during the period 2011-15.

Vessels and aircraft of Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy are deployed on 24x7 basis for surveillance in the maritime zones of India to protect national interests including for preventing infiltration and poaching by foreign fishing boats. Indian Coast Guard conducts community interaction programmes with the fishermen to sensitize them on prevailing security situations and develop them to be the eyes and ears for intelligence gathering. Static radars have been installed along the Indian Coast line for electronic surveillance of vessel traffic. Coast Guard has been conducting regular exercises biannually on coastal security in co-ordination with other Central and State Government agencies i.e. Marine Police, Customs, CISF, Fisheries Department, Port Authorities, State Police and Indian Navy. Strengthening of maritime security and coastal security is a multi-stakeholder activity and necessary measures are implemented by various agencies. To ensure coordination, regular meetings of the National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS) are held in which all stakeholders participate.