

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:255
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
SMUGGLING THROUGH COASTAL AREAS
Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any reports regarding smuggling of arms along with men through the coastal areas of our country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken efforts to guard the coasts with the help of fishermen;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the comprehensive steps taken by the Government to guard the coastline and thwart attempts by terrorists to infiltrate and carry out attacks in the mainland?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) & (b) : No, Madam. There has been no report of smuggling of arms along with men through the coastal areas of the country during the current year.

(c) & (d) : Since 2009, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has been conducting Community Interaction Programmes (CIPs) for the fishermen throughout the year in co-ordination with the other stake-holders to sensitize them to act as the 'eyes and ears' of the enforcement agencies in providing valuable information for enhancing the coastal security. A Toll-free number (1093), which is installed at Police HQrs. of coastal States has been provided to them for passing such information. So far, 2718 CIPs have been conducted by the Coast Guard.

Several States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, etc. have formed Sagar Rakshak Dal/Village Vigilance Committee, appointing people from fishermen community, as they stay near the sea-shore villages.

(e) : Subsequent to the Mumbai incident of 26 November, 2008, the entire coastal security scenario of the country has been subjected to multi-level inter-ministerial review by the Government of India and several important decisions/initiatives have been taken as per the details given below :

Implementation of the then ongoing of the Coastal Security Scheme (Phase-I) was completed on 31.03.2011.

Vulnerability/gap-analysis for Coastal Security Scheme (Phase-II) was carried out and the Phase-II of the Scheme with an outlay of Rs.1580 crore, was approved by the Government for implementation with effect from 01.04.2011.

The Indian Navy has been designated as the Authority responsible for overall Maritime Security.

Director General, Coast Guard has been designated as Commander of Coastal Command and made responsible for overall coordination between the States and the Central Agencies in all the matters relating to coastal security. # Preparation of National Population Register (NPR) for coastal population has been initiated. # Registration of all types of fishing vessels has been initiated. # Joint coastal security exercises are conducted by the Indian Coast Guard in co-ordination with the other stake-holders to create synergy between the Central and the State agencies involved in the coastal security.

Issuance of Multi-purpose National Identity Cards (MNICs) to all the population in the coastal villages including fishermen has been initiated.

Fitment/provision of navigational and communication equipments on all type of vessels has been initiated.

"National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security against Threats from the Sea" (NCSMCS) constituted under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary for monitoring the coastal security of the country and its related issues.

Steering Committee for Review of Coastal Security has been constituted in the Ministry of Home Affairs to review the coastal security related issues.

Government of India has decided to set up two Marine Police Training Institutes (MPTI) one each on the Eastern and the Western coasts to cater training to the States' Coastal Police Personnel.

Government has decided to set up the MPTI earmarked for the Western coast in the State of Gujarat on the land offered by them free-of-cost.

The decisions taken in the meetings of the NCSMCS and the Steering Committee are closely followed up/monitored for implementation.

