

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2208
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014
POACHING OF MARINE LIVES
Antony Shri Anto ;Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been incidents of poaching of sea cucumbers, corals, and other valuable marine lives of the Andaman Coast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government / proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such poaching in the future;
- (d) whether the Government have received complaints regarding the difficulties faced by the Indian fisherman due to illegal poaching of fish by foreign vessels in the Indian waters; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) & (b): Indian Coast Guard has reported the following number of incidents of poaching of sea cucumbers off the Andaman Coast:

Year	No. of Incidents
2011	5
2012	3
2013	Nil
2014	1

(c) Surface and aerial surveillance is regularly conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Indian Navy (IN) to prevent poaching in Exclusive Economic Zone of India. As part of the efforts to control poaching, the Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration has constituted a full time Coordination Committee which has a toll free helpline number 1093. The Coordination Committee has representatives from Intelligence Bureau, Forest Department, Coast Guard, Civil Society Organisation etc. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established in accordance with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products. Under this Act, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(d) & (e): The Government receives representations on several issues relating to deep sea fisheries including fishing by foreign vessels from time to time. Action is taken under Maritime Zones of India (Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 against foreign fishing vessels found fishing illegally in Indian waters. Further, regular aerial and surface surveillance / patrolling is undertaken by IN and ICG to deter such incidents.