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Title: Regarding strengthening of maritime security in the country.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, today is 26/11. Since beginning of the day, I was expecting that some words would have been spoken commemorating the martyrs who laid down their lives to protect the citizens of this country. I was lucky enough that I had given a notice, it was listed in 'Zero Hour' and as per the serial it would have come. But the situation went otherwise. We did not have 'Zero Hour' in the morning. That is why we are taking it up now.

Scars of the Seas still remains and it still remains not in the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, not in other places where guns were shot. But a house still remains in Mumbai, that is the Nariman House, which has preserved those gunshots as we have preserved certain gunshots of the day in our Parliament edifice when attack was done on this edifice, a temple of Indian democracy.

Six years ago, India was attacked by terrorists, who had come from the sea front and all the sides in Mumbai were targeted by terrorists on 26.11.2008. The gruesome scars of that attack are no longer visible except at the Nariman House. The 124 kilometre coastline of Mumbai still continues to be most vulnerable. Sir, not only the Mumbai coastline but the eastern coast is also very vulnerable. A mention was also made about Gujarat coast which is very close to Pakistan border.

It has become very vulnerable in the Eastern Coast because terrorist modules are making Bangladesh as their launching ground. What is more worrying is that crucial maritime security project still awaits the Government's approval. National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network has been inaugurated in Gurgaon but the facilities to make it fully potential or operational could be reached only once the National Maritime Domain Awareness or NMDA sets into place. What is urgently required today is to equip the maritime police in counter insurgency activities.

Six years have passed of the dastardly attack. Six months have passed when both Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan shook hands here in Delhi. I do not know whether they shook hands today in Kathmandu. Today, I would only expect that it would be wise to forgive the perpetrators of the crime but do not forget what they have done to us. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I want to add to this. Indeed, it is a day on which the hon. Speaker did mention in the Obituary Reference. We all associated with that Obituary Reference. But the fact remains that India was attacked on that particular day. We all join that. This morning the hon. Speaker did mention about this particular day. So, I wanted to point out that and it is indeed something which we all associate.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Shri Rajeev Satav is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.