

Commander Coastal Command responsible for overall coordination between Central and State agencies in all matters relating to coastal Security. The Indian Coast Guard is taking many other steps for strengthening their infrastructure.

- * Registration of all types of vessels, *i.e.* fishing as well as non-fishing vessels.
- * Fitting/provision of navigational and communication equipments on all type of vessels.
- * Issuance of Bio-metric ID cards to all the fishermen.
- * Issuance of Multi-purpose National Identity Cards (MNICs) to all the population in the coastal villages including fishermen.
- * The '*National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security against threats from the Sea*' has been formed. Periodic meetings for regular monitoring are being undertaken by the Committee.

(b) to (d) To strengthen the coastal security of the country, an exercise has been completed to finalise the Coastal Security Scheme (Phase-II) in consultation with Coast Guard and concerned coastal States and Union Territories. In the scheme, proposal of construction of new coastal police stations, interceptor boats, vehicles and other related support have been finalised. After obtaining final approval of the competent authority, the implementation of the Scheme will be carried out.

Spurt of Extremist activities in Kerala

1874. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of recent spurt in the activities of extremists and terrorists in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government is proposing to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Available inputs do not indicate spurt in terrorist/extremist activities in Kerala. However, recently, one incident of chopping of the palm of one Lecturer has come to notice and the matter is being investigated by the Kerala Police.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public order' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India, accordingly, the first responder to any such activity is the State Government/State Police. The Government has been, on a continuing basis, reviewing the security arrangements in the light of the emerging challenges, and a number of important decisions and measures have been taken. These measures, *inter-alia*, include augmenting the strength of Central Para-Military Forces, amendment of the CISF Act to enable deployment of CISF in joint venture of private Industrial undertakings establishment of NSG hubs at Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai empowerment of DG, NSG to requisition aircraft for movement of NSG personnel in the event of any emergency; strengthening and re-organizing of Multi-Agency Centre to enable it to function on 24x7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with other intelligence and security agencies; tighter immigration control, effective border management through border fencing, flood lighting, deployment of surveillance equipment and coastal security. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 has been amended and notified in 2008 to strengthen the punitive measures to combat terrorism. The National Investigation Agency has been constituted under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 to investigate and prosecute offences under the Acts specified in the Schedule. As a part of steps to counter terrorists threats, the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has also been created. Further, the issue of State support to terrorism has been taken up at various levels in the established bilateral fora.

Prevention of Torture Bill to meet uncat standards

1875. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 introduced in Parliament in the last budget session has been cleared by the Cabinet;
- (b) whether India is a signatory to the UN Convention Against Torture;
- (c) whether the bill meets the standards set by UNCAT; and
- (d) whether with most of the accused in torture cases being public servants or armed forces personnel, there is need to do away with Section 197 of the Cr. PC and the AFSPA which presently provide immunity to those accused?