

Statement

Details of Joint Military Exercise with China and Japan

| Sl. No. | Exercise | Place | Duration |
|--|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| India-China Joint Military Exercises: | | | |
| 1. | First Joint Army Exercise 'Hand-in-Hand' | Kunming (China) | 19-27 December, 2007 |
| 2. | Second Joint Army Exercise 'Hand-in-Hand' | Belgaum (India) | 4-14 December, 2008 |
| 3. | PASSEX (Passage Exercise) between Navies of two countries | Off Quingdao (China) | 16th April, 2007 |
| India-Japan Joint Military Exercises: | | | |
| 4. | PASSEX (Passage Exercise) between Navies of two countries | Off Kochi | 10th April, 2007 |
| 5. | PASSEX (Passage Exercise) between Navies of two countries | Off Mumbai | 8-9 August, 2007 |
| 6. | PASSEX (Passage Exercise) between Navies of two countries | Off Mumbai | 16th May, 2008 |
| 7. | PASSEX (Passage Exercise) between Navies of two countries | Off Mumbai | 23rd August, 2008 |
| 8. | PASSEX (Passage Exercise) between Navies of two countries | Off Goa | 10th May, 2009 |

Surveillance of maritime border

†2379. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for surveillance of maritime border presently;

(b) whether it is a fact that intelligence agencies have expressed apprehension of terrorist attacks from sea route;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps Government has taken to foil the terrorist attacks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government has accorded top priority to strengthening the mechanism ensuring overall coastal and maritime security of the country through increased coastal surveillance by deployment of the assets of both Navy and Coast Guard. The inputs received by intelligence agencies are being shared on daily basis through the Multi-agency Mechanism. Further this intelligence mechanism has been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centres. In order to improve preparedness and seamless integration of various security agencies against such threats, Joint Operational exercises are taking place on regular basis among the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Coastal State Police, Customs and others.

Prevention of poaching off the Andaman Coast

2380. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been incidents of poaching of sea cucumbers, corals and other valuable marine lives off the Andaman Coast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such poaching in the future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Indian Coast Guard patrols Indian Coastline on a regular basis to prevent poaching activities. The patrolling is done by ships, boats and air. While no incident of poaching of sea corals and other valuable marine lives has been reported in the current year, few incidents of poaching/attempt to poach have been reported for sea cucumber off Andaman Coast in the current year.

Vacant post in armed forces

†2381. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of officers in the army is decreasing continuously;
 - (b) the number of sanctioned and vacant posts;
 - (c) the reasons for vacancies and decreasing number of officers in the army;
 - (d) whether Government is taking any special measure to fill the above said posts;
- and

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