

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) on 17th April, 2000 to review the national security system in its entirety and in particular, to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and to formulate specific proposals for its implementation. The GoM's report on 'Reforming the National Security System' was presented to the Government in February 2001 in which it was, *inter alia*, recommended to create the institution of Chief of Defence Staff. It was decided that Government would take a view on the establishment of the CDS after consulting various political parties. Accordingly, a decision on the matter would be taken after completion of the ongoing consultations.

Strengthening of coastal security

354. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the coastal security ring around Mumbai remains porous for want of infrastructure and adequately trained personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the coastline in the country remain unpatrolled posing threat to the security of the Nation; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps Government proposes to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A three tier coastal security ring all along our coast including Mumbai is provided by Marine Police, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy. Government has initiated several measures to strengthen Coastal Security, which includes improving surveillance mechanism and enhanced patrolling by following an integrated approach. Joint operational exercises are conducted on regular basis among Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police, Customs and others to check the effectiveness of this approach adopted for security of coastal areas including island territories. Further, continuous review and monitoring of various mechanisms have been established by the Government at different levels, involving various agencies, including the State/Union Territory authorities. The intelligence mechanism has also been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centers and multi-agency coordination mechanism. Installation of radars covering the country's entire coastline and islands is also an essential part of this process.