

(c) what action and measures of vigilance, Government has taken and is planning to take to ensure such illegal intrusion does not happen and to apprehend such culprits timely to protect coastal industries and people in coastal area?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Piracy off the Coast of Somalia has grown steadily over the years and has become a serious concern. In the recent past there have been some incidents of piracy attempts in the East Arabian Sea off the Lakshadweep & Minicoy Islands which were foiled by Indian Navy. In two separate incidents on 19th June, 2011 and 26th June, 2011 38 persons, out of which, 32 are of Somalian origin, were apprehended by the police off the Gujarat Coast and interrogated by concerned agencies.

(c) 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 Centres and multi-agency coordination mechanism. Installation of radars covering the country's entire coastline and islands is also an essential part of this process. Both Indian Navy and Coast Guard have been appropriately equipped to carry out enhanced surveillance and secure the coastline.

#### **Deals with US for purchase of defence related items**

1743. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deals with the United States in the pipeline for purchasing defence related items; and

(b) with which other countries did Government conduct business transactions between 2004-2011 regarding purchase of defence-related items?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Procurement of defence items is made from various indigenous as well as foreign sources including United States of America (USA) in

accordance with the defence procurement procedure. This is a continuous process undertaken for the modernization of the Armed Forces to keep them in a state of readiness to meet any eventuality. Divulging further details in this regard would not be in the national interest.

(b) Defence equipment has been imported from various other countries including Russia, Israel, France, United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, South Africa, Ukraine, Italy, Singapore, etc. during the period from 2004 to 2011.

**Ex-servicemen status to JCOs on deputation in APS**

1744. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks (JCOs/ORs) (deputed from Department of Posts) in Army Postal Service are not given Ex-servicemen status even after completion of 25 years of service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks deputed from Department of Post to Army Postal Service, who are a part of the Regular Army and retire from such service, that is, directly from the Army Postal Service itself, without reversion to Department of Post, with a pension or who have been released from such service on medical grounds attributable to military service or circumstances beyond their control and awarded medical or other disability pension, are granted ex-servicemen status.

**Grant of honorary rank to JCOs/ORs on deputation in APS**

1745. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that JCOs/ORs (deputed from Department of Posts) in Army Postal Service are not considered for grant of Honorary rank while proceeding retirement on completion of age/service limit directly from APS without repatriation to Department of Posts while other JCOs/ORs (Regular Cadre) in Army Postal Service are being granted such rank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Honorary Commission/Rank, as per existing instructions, is granted, to personnel of Regular Army. Since, JCOs/ORs deputed from Department of Posts form part of non-regular cadre, they are not considered for grant of Honorary Commission/Rank.