

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) The Ministry is aware of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence preparedness. Ammunition in Armed forces including Army is by and large available in adequate quantities. The Armed forces remain in a state of operational preparedness to meet any eventuality. Recommendations of the Standing Committee are examined in all earnestness and appropriate action is taken thereon.

Setting up of marine police stations in Maharashtra and A.P.

3596. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire coast of India is vulnerable and there is no arrangement for holding off attacks from the sea;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after the Pakistani terror attack on Mumbai, the Centre has decided to have a security ring along the country's coastline;

(c) whether it is also a fact that marine police stations were planned to be set up in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, how much amount has been sanctioned by the Centre so far and how much has been unutilized or wasted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) A three tier coastal security ring all along our coast 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. 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.

(c) and (d) Under Coastal Security Scheme Phase-I of Ministry of Home Affairs, a grant of Rs.692.6 lakhs to Maharashtra and Rs.267 lakhs to Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned to establish 12 and 6 marine police stations respectively. Similarly under Coastal Security Scheme Phase-II a financial out lay of Rs. 1579.91 crores has been made. A part of these funds are meant for establishment of 7 and 15 marine police stations respectively in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. An amount of Rs.441.00 lakhs and Rs.945.00 lakhs respectively has been sanctioned to these two States till date.