

In order to deal with various kinds of concerns of the people hailing from the North Eastern States living in different parts of the country, especially in, the Metropolitan cities, a committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri M.P. Bezbaruah, (Retired IAS) presently Member, North Eastern Council. The Committee includes members, one each from the other North Eastern States as well as one lady member. The Chairman will have the authority to co-opt any other person to assist the Committee. The Committee will suggest suitable measures, including legal remedies, to address their concerns. The Committee will submit its report within two months.

Safeguarding the coastal areas

2720. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to safeguard the Coastal areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the projects undertaken/implemented till date;
- (c) whether some States have many more demands for infrastructure and machinery in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Safeguarding the coastal security is the prime concern of the Government of India. Having recognised this, Ministry of Home Affairs had implemented the Coastal Security Scheme in phases to strengthen the infrastructure of all the coastal States/Union Territories for patrolling and surveillance of coastal areas, particularly shallow areas close to the coast to check and counter any illegal cross border activities and criminal activities using the coast or sea. The Phase-I of the Scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs.646 crore during 2005-2011. Under the Scheme, 73 Coastal Police Stations, 97 Checkposts, 58 Outposts and 30 Barracks were set up and 153 Jeeps, 312 Motorcycles, 204 Interceptor Boats (120 Nos. of 12-Ton Boats & 84 Nos. of 5-Ton Boats) and 10 Nos. of Rigid Inflatable Boats were provided to the coastal States/UTs. Operation "SWAN" has been a part of the coastal patrolling by the Indian Coast Guard since 1993.

On the basis of vulnerability/gap analysis carried out by the coastal States/UTs, in consultation with Coast Guard, Government of India has approved the implementation of Phase-II of the Coastal Security Scheme with effect from 01.4.2011. Under Phase-II, setting up of 131 Coastal Police Stations, equipped with 150 Nos. of 12-Ton Boats, 10 Nos. of

5-Ton Boats, 20 Nos. of 19 Mtr. Boats, 10 Large Vessels, 35 Rigid Inflatable Boats, 131 Four-wheelers, 242 Two-wheelers, and construction of 60 Jetties are being implemented with an outlay of Rs. 1,579.91 crore.

Subsequent to the Mumbai incident of 26/11, the entire coastal security scenario of the country has been subjected to multi-level inter-ministerial review by the Government of India and several important decisions/initiatives have been taken as per the details given below :

- The Indian Navy has been designated as the Authority responsible for overall Maritime Security.
- Director General, Coast Guard has been designated as Commander of Coastal Command and made responsible for overall coordination between the State and the Central Agencies in all the matters relating to coastal security.
- Preparation of National Population Register (NPR) for coastal population has been initiated.
- Registration of all types of fishing vessels has been initiated.
- Joint coastal security exercises are being conducted by the Indian Coast Guard in co-ordination with the other stake-holders to create synergy between the Central and the State security agencies.
- Issuance of Multi-purpose National Identity Cards (MNICs) to all the population in the coastal villages has been initiated.
- Fitment/provision of navigational and communication equipments on all type of vessels has been initiated.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, few States like, Gujarat and Kerala have demanded for enhancement of financial assistance for the construction of Jetties. It was decided that the coastal States/UTs would review the physical dimension of the Jetties based on local conditions and requirements and would examine to relocate the Jetties adjacent to the fishing harbours to avoid land acquisition requirements and to save costs on requirement of dredging.

Issuance of identity card to every citizen

2721. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the publication of the National Population Register (NPR) in 2011, Government had promised that every citizen would be issued a unique identity card;