

**Accessing data from foreign countries bypassing MLAT regime**

3093. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to take steps towards signing agreements with other countries that would allow the law enforcement agencies to request data directly from the foreign companies, bypassing the present Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) regime;

(b) how do the law enforcement agencies presently access data from countries that India has not signed MLAT with; and

(c) considering that MLAT only applies in criminal cases, how Government procures electronically stored information from foreign companies when such information is required for civil suits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Home Affairs is the designated Central Authority for seeking legal assistance from foreign countries in criminal matters. Legal Assistance from countries, with which India has not signed an MLAT, is sought on the basis of an Assurance of Reciprocity and on the basis of International Convention(s) which has been signed and ratified by India and the requested country.

(c) Ministry of Law and Justice, the designated Central Authority for seeking legal assistance from abroad in Civil and Commercial Matters, has informed that MLAT in Civil and Commercial Matters provides juridical and judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters for the service of summons, judicial documents, commission, execution of judgements and arbitral awards only. Ministry of Law and Justice has informed that at present there is no proposal to sign agreements with other countries to procure electronically stored information in civil and commercial matters.

**Security of Mumbai coastline**

3094. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that day-to-day patrolling off Mumbai coast is not being carried out by the concerned marine police and customs preventive wing;

(b) if so, the reasons for preventing surveillance boats from berthing and going out to sea for night patrol; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to tighten the three layered security of Mumbai coastline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): (a) to (c) Patrolling of Mumbai Coast is jointly carried out by the Customs Department and the State Marine Police. In order to strengthen the three layered security, the Indian Navy has been designated as the authority responsible for overall Maritime Security. Director General, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) 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. State Coastal Police work closely with ICG under the hub and spoke concept, the hub being ICG Station and the spokes being the Coastal Police Stations.

Taking corrective steps to avoid any kind of gaps in Coastal security is a continuous process and the Government takes various initiatives as and when required.

**Distress calls received by Delhi police helpline**

3095. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of calls made to police helpline number 100 in Delhi go unanswered every day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the average number of distress calls received by the Delhi Police helpline every day *vis-à-vis* number of calls going unanswered; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) Delhi Police has reported that the Police helpline No. 100 receives on an average 24539 distress calls per day (24 hrs). Apart from this, due to call rush there are 321 abandoned (unanswered) calls per day on an average which get dropped in the switch and cannot be answered by the call-taker. Delhi Police has informed that there is a surge of distress calls during the peak hours (7 pm to 11 pm) due to which some calls get placed in queue and some of them are also abandoned by the callers.

(d) Delhi Police has reported that a dedicated help desk has been established in the Central Police Control Room to call back the abandoned calls. Regular briefing and close supervision of call-takers/operators is undertaken by the Delhi Police to ensure that minimum time is consumed in attending the distress calls so as to reduce the number of calls in queue.