

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:384

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2007

HOTLINE SERVICE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN COAST GUARDS

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a hotline service between Indo-Pak Coast Guards has been started to monitor the coastal boundaries and facilitate exchange of information between the two countries as reported in Rashtriya Sahara, dated February 1, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Coast Guard is facing a shortage of jawans to defend the coastal boundaries of the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the steps taken to meet the shortage; and

(e) the extent to which hotline service has proved to be useful?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 384 FOR ANSWER ON 1.3.2007

A hotline connectivity has been successfully established between Indian Coast Guard and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency on 14th November, 2006. The hotline has enabled online exchange of information on International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) violation by fishing vessels of respective sides. There is a regular exchange of communication between Director General of Indian Coast Guard and Director General of Pakistan Maritime Security Agency at 0930 hours (Indian Standard Time) on every Wednesday. The establishment of hotline connectivity has paved a way for maritime cooperation between the two Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies. The Indian Coast Guard is a growing organization and providing of requisite manpower is an ongoing process. For filling up of vacancies, recruitment is conducted on regular basis. The Coast Guard is adequately equipped to defend the coastal boundaries of the country.