

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2772
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
MILITARY PACKAGE TO MALDIVES
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to provide a military package to Maldives;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to improve security scenario in Indian Ocean Region?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): India and Maldives enjoy excellent bilateral relations and are cooperating in various areas of mutual interest including defence sector. Requests received from Maldives for defence related cooperation are considered by the Government of India and decisions taken keeping India's interest in view. It will not be in the national interest to disclose further details in the matter keeping the relations with a friendly country in view.

Indian Coast Guard and the Navy carry out regular surveillance in India's territorial waters, Exclusive Economic Zone and other areas of maritime interest. India is also having regular interactions with the Indian Ocean Region littoral states. Patrolling along the International Maritime Boundaries, sharing of information on ship movements & platform signatures with our maritime neighbours and conduct of joint exercises are some of the measures taken to improve security scenario in Indian Ocean Region.