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Title: Need to take steps to ensure coastal security in the country.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity.

Through you, I wish to draw the urgent attention of this august House to a very important matter regarding the safety and security of the coastal belt. India has 7517 kms. long and vulnerable coastal line and the maritime interest of the country assumes paramount importance. The 26/11 Mumbai attack was an eye-opener and it makes us more alert to the need for vigilance on the coastal line.

Our Coast Guard and the Navy are, in fact, taking very effective steps to face the threat to our maritime interest. The Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean and also the presence of their submarines in Colombo pose serious threat. The Chinese claim over international waters with all its neighbours is also creating an alarming situation in the region especially when the Indian Ocean is emerging as the centre of gravity as far as maritime interest is concerned.

Under these circumstances, I urge the Government to take urgent steps to safeguard our interests against the threats and protect our coastal line. I also urge the Union Government to alert the coastal States and Union Territories so that people along the coastal belt are involved in the security of our country in a better manner.