

## **Parimal Nathwani**

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## **Somalian Pirates A Matter of Serious Concern**

### **Govt Intensify Coastal Security : Antony**

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**August 17, 2011** : Rajya sabha member Parimal Nathwani raised an issue of intrusions of Somalian Pirates in Indian waters today in the house and asked the government as to what actions it took to ensure coastal security, particularly on the Gujarat coast. Mr. A. K. Antony, the union minister of defence replied that piracy off the coast of Somalia had grown steadily over the years and had become a serious concern.

The minister in his reply admitted that there were some incidents of piracy attempts in the east Arabian sea off the Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands which were foiled by the Indian Navy. In another two separate incidents on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 38 persons were apprehended by the police of Gujarat coast, out of which 32 were Somalian origins; he stated.

The measures taken by the government to strengthen coastal security included improving surveillance mechanism and enhanced patrolling in an integrated manner, the minister said. He added that joint operational exercises were conducted on regular basis among Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police, Customs and others to check the effectiveness.

The intelligence mechanism has also been streamlined through creation of Joint Operation Centres and multi-agency co-ordination mechanism, Mr. Antony said and informed that installation of radars covering country's entire coastline and islands was an essential part of the process. Both Indian Navy and Coast Guard were appropriately equipped to carry out enhanced surveillance and secure our coastline, the minister assured the house.

