

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1852
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

Threat to Coastal Villages

1852. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rise in sea level owing to global warming is posing a threat to the coastal villages of the country and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether there are unauthorized development projects in coastal areas and decrease of green belt as a result thereof and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the problem?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) Sea levels are changing at different rates along the Indian coast as per the studies carried out at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services. The Second National Communication submitted by India to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change projects sea level rise by 3.5 to 34.6 inches between 1990 and 2100, which may result in saline coastal groundwater, endangering wetlands and inundating valuable land and coastal communities. The most vulnerable stretches along the western Indian coast are Khambhat and Kutch in Gujarat, Mumbai, and parts of the Konkan coast and south Kerala. The deltas of the Ganga, Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery, and Mahanadi on the East Coast may be threatened, along with irrigated land and a number of urban and other settlements that are situated in them. The Government is committed to take proactive steps for protecting country's coastal areas and communities.

(b) and (c) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 and Island Protection Zone (IPZ) Notification, 2011 are enforced and implemented by the concerned Coastal Zone Management Authorities (CZMAs) of State and Union Territories. Under the extant regulations, these CZMAs have been empowered to enquire into the cases of alleged violation of the provisions of the Notifications and take appropriate action under the law. As per State of Forest Report 2017, there has been a net increase of 181 sq.km in the mangrove cover of the country as compared to 2015 assessment.

(d) The other steps taken by the Government target protection of livelihoods of fisher folk communities, preservation of coastal ecology etc; initiation of an integrated coastal zone management project with objectives of building capacity for implementation of comprehensive coastal management, etc; delineation of erosion line over the entire coast line covering the mainland coastal States/UTs as a part of hazard line mapping exercise carried out by Survey of India; and National Strategy for Coastal Protection and guidelines for coastal protection measures for the States.
