

Re: Protection of vulnerable coastal regions ? laid

SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM): As per a report by the World Meteorological Organization, India is one of the few countries that are at the greatest risk of experiencing rising sea levels worldwide. Rising sea levels have a subsequent effect of loss of coastal ecosystems and ecosystem services, as well as groundwater salinisation and an increased risk of flooding that causes immense damage to life and property in these regions. This is already being experienced by states like Andhra Pradesh which has the second longest coastline in India, and wherein several building and road networks are at risk of submergence in coastal cities like Vishakhapatnam by 2050 according to RMSI, a risk management firm. It is, therefore, crucial to tackle the effect of the climate crisis by supplementing state efforts with national policies that enhance resilience against climate change and by investing in national projects like the application of Space Technology, as recommended in a report by Niti Aayog as such technology can be adapted to provide real-time information on major disasters like floods and cyclones. Therefore, I request the Government to take steps in this direction to ensure the protection of vulnerable coastal regions.