

*[English]***Ban of Aquaculture in CRZ Area**

*4. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment among the people residing in coastal areas in regard to the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone notification;

(b) whether certain M.Ps have also expressed concern on the curtailment of aquaculture/shrimp farming within CRZ due to Supreme Court orders;

(c) whether Government have constituted a committee to look into the specific problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to compensate the farmers who have suffered losses due to ban of aquaculture in C.R.Z.?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from the people residing in the coastal areas regarding problems due to implementation of the provisions of CRZ Notification.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some M.Ps have expressed concerns on the Supreme Court order regarding aquaculture.

(c) and (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(e) The matter is subjudice in the Supreme court.

Statement

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To look into the specific issues faced by various coastal States in implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, the Central Government had constituted the committees mentioned below.

1. **Shri B.B. Vohra Committee to examine the issues relating to tourism and hotel facilities in the coastal areas and related issues.**

Terms of Reference

(i) To examine the actual regulations and standards presently in force in the coastal areas of the country related to the setting up of tourism and hotel facilities.

(ii) To examine the rationale and practicality of these regulations and standards in that context.

(iii) To examine the CRZ policy issues vis-a-vis the subject of beach resorts.

(iv) To suggest modifications, if necessary, in these regulations/standards.

2. **Fr. C.J. Saldanha Committee on withdrawal of groundwater and extraction of sand in selected areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

Terms of Reference

(i) To assess demand for water and available reserves in respect of selected islands identified by the Union Territory Administration.

(ii) To assess demand for sand for construction purposes and its availability in respect of selected islands identified by U.T. Administration;

(iii) To advice whether the demand for water and sand can be met from the resources outside the CRZ areas or whether it will be absolutely essential to withdraw ground water and mine sand from the CRZ area;

(iv) To indicate the likely adverse impact on the ecology of the area if the demand for water and sand is to be met from the CRZ area;

(v) To identify the areas from which withdrawal of ground water and mining of sand can be carried out with minimum adverse impacts;

(vi) To suggest alternate sources of water and sand to fulfill the demand in respect of identified islands.

3. **Prof. N. Balakrishnan Nair Committee to examine specific issues in Kerala State relating to Coastal Regulation Zone Notification.**

Terms of Reference

(i) To examine the representation of the Government of Kerala that the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification should not be uniformly applied to the State as the problems of its coast line, estuaries and backwaters are very different from those of other States and to suggest recommendations thereon.

(ii) To examine whether the restrictions against establishing and expanding fish processing units within 500 m from HTL be modified and if so, the recommendations in this regard.

4. Fr. C.J. Saldanha Committee to examine specific issues relating to Coastal Regulation Zone Notification.

Terms of Reference

- (i) To suggest criteria to permit reduction of CRZ along rivers, creeks and backwaters to 50 m or the width of rivers, creeks and backwaters, whichever is less.
- (ii) To identify parameters and to suggest criteria to permit construction of dwelling units for local inhabitants within 200 m of High Tide Line in CRZ-III areas. These criteria, should inter-alia take into consideration the assimilative capacity of the region, such as availability of drinking water and scope for making arrangements for disposal of sewage and other domestic wastes.

Pollution in Delhi and Other Cities

***5. SHRI MANIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :**

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the level of air pollution has assumed dangerously high proportions and the Pollution Control Boards have no equipments to measure the density of air pollution in Delhi and other cities;

(b) if so, the factors contributing to the environmental pollution and the estimated extent of their contribution;

(c) whether the dangerously high density of air pollution in Delhi is likely to give birth and increase the killing diseases like Cancer and other respiratory problems;

(d) if so, whether the efforts of Government by way of removing the old vehicles from the roads in the capital have made any impact in lessening the pollution.

(e) if so, whether there is any proposal to embark upon at once in the direction of decongesting Delhi;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to prevent pollution and pollution-related diseases?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (c) Pollution levels being monitored by Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards

have shown a rising trend mainly due to growth in economic activity and increase in the number of vehicles. Major pollutants such as suspended particulate matter, sulphur di-oxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen in most of the cities are within the prescribed limits. However, in cities such as Delhi and Calcutta, their concentrations exceed the prescribed limits for short durations in areas of high traffic density and at some busy traffic intersections. In Delhi due to the introduction of unleaded petrol, the levels of lead in ambient air have gone down substantially. Epidemiological studies do not indicate conclusive scientific evidence establishing air pollution adverse effects on human health.

(d) Phasing out of old commercial vehicles is one of the measures proposed for controlling pollution in Delhi. Since the measure has only recently been undertaken, the impact in reducing pollution is not measurable.

(e) and (f) The National Capital Region Planning Board, in order to reduce the population pressures and achieve a balanced harmonised development have developed a plan for promoting satellite townships.

(g) The steps taken/to be taken by the Government to prevent pollution are :

- (1) The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning. lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution.
- (2) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.
- (3) Low lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above-mentioned 4 cities with effect from 1st April, 1995. Effective 1st September, 1998, only unleaded petrol is being supplied in Delhi.
- (4) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Department of Transport in various States.