

Title : Regarding implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) in Kerala

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** I would like to point out a serious concern affecting one of the most marginalized sections of our country: the fishermen, in relation to the complex and inconsistently enforced Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) regulations in coastal regions particularly in Kerala. The regulations limit fishermen's access to traditional fishing grounds and restrict activities essential for their livelihood. There is widespread anxiety within these communities about potential displacement due to CRZ norms. Fishermen, who have lived in coastal areas for generations, are worried about being forced to relocate if their homes and settlements are deemed illegal under the new regulations. Additionally, infrastructure development in coastal areas is being severely hampered by these regulations. The construction of necessary facilities like fish landing centres, storage units, and processing units, which are crucial for the fishing industry, is being affected. They face potential fines and the need to invest in alternative, compliant infrastructure, which adds to their financial burden. For a community already struggling with various challenges, these additional costs can be overwhelming. It is imperative that we address these concerns and work towards a more balanced approach that protects the environment while also safeguarding the livelihoods of our fishermen.