

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3973
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
OVER EXPLOITATION OF COASTLINES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the carrying capacity of coastlines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check over exploitation of coastlines of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)&(b) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 requires preparation of comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report with cumulative studies for projects in the stretches classified as low and medium eroding by the Ministry of Environment and Forests based on scientific studies. Further, the Ministry has initiated assessment of shoreline changes for the entire mainline of the country through the Institute of Ocean Management, Anna University, Chennai.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to parts (a) & (b) above.

(d) To check the over exploitation of the Coastline and its resources, the CRZ Notification, 2011 prohibits various activities including mining of sand by mechanical methods, discharge of untreated effluents, withdrawal of ground water and setting up of new industries. Further, the Notification prohibits location of developmental activities in and around ecological sensitive areas like mangroves, coral reefs and sand dunes.