

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4567
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
REPORT ON CRZ CLEARANCES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made it mandatory to prepare comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for obtaining Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance in the low and medium erosion stretches in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has put up such restrictions based on any scientific study;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to consider projects for CRZ clearance based on rapid EIA instead of comprehensive EIA report in low and medium erosion areas;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether the Ministry is considering to make any amendment in Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2011, as far as such provisions are concerned to avoid unnecessary delay for implementation of the development projects in the interest of the economic development of the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) As per the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011, proposals for development projects in low and medium eroding stretches as well as stable coasts shall be accompanied by comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The Ministry of Environment and Forests had notified the CRZ Notification for main land and the Island Protection Zone Notification for islands in January, 2011 in supersession of the CRZ Notification, 1991 after detailed review through an Expert Committee headed by Prof M.S. Swaminathan and extensive consultations with various stakeholders, including the State Governments. The opinion and suggestions from various stakeholders were taken into consideration while finalizing the CRZ Notification, 2011.

(d) to (g) The Government of Gujarat requested to consider projects for CRZ clearance in low and medium eroding coastal stretches based on rapid EIA instead of comprehensive EIA Report.

As rapid EIA may not address all the environmental concerns, to conserve and protect coastal stretches, promote development through sustainable manner based on scientific principles, comprehensive EIA studies are essential before considering proposals in low and medium eroding stretches and stable coasts. The requirement of comprehensive EIA studies in such stretches is uniformly applicable throughout the country