

15.00 hrs.

Title: Need to provide additional Central assistance to the State of Karnataka to check sea erosion in the coastal areas of the State.

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (MYSORE): Karnataka has a coastline of about 300 kilometres stretching from Mangalore to Karwar covering three districts with a number of estuaries formed due to the drainage of a large number of rivers joining the Arabian Sea. Out of this 300 kilometres, a length of 215.685 kilometres has been identified to protect the sea coast against erosion. The State Government of Karnataka had prepared a Master Plan for Rs.5750 crore and submitted to Central Water Commission in September 1997 for obtaining external funding.

The Central Government has sanctioned only Rs.5.5 crore for anti-sea erosion works in the form of grant in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and State and asked the State Government of Karnataka to bear the remaining amount from the State Budget. The State is financially not sound to bear so much amount for implementing the anti-sea erosion schemes.

I request the Union Government to provide adequate funds for anti-sea erosion activities in the coastal areas of Karnataka.