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Title: Need to protect the coastal lines of Kerala from sea erosion.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter pertaining to the life and livelihood of poor fishermen along the entire coast of Kerala.

Sir, I come from the coastal State of Kerala which has got 590 kms. of coastline. Out of that, almost 250 kms. are vulnerable to sea erosion during every monsoon. Tsunami is an occasional phenomenon, but sea erosion is a regular monsoon phenomenon in Kerala. During every monsoon, that is, during the months of June, July and August, when the sea is rough, sea erosion occurs in Kerala and due to that, the poor fisher-folk lose all their source of livelihood. I have got a reply from the hon. Minister of Water Resources that Kerala's loss of coastal land is 57.3 hectares during the last three years. This occurs because of the unprotected coastline and thousands of families lost their households.

Sir, we are spending crores of rupees for the protection of land frontiers, but we are not providing adequate attention to the coastline of the entire country. In this context, I would like to quote late Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda:

"If an enemy captured any part of India, the expenses will not be a bar to recapture that land."

MR. SPEAKER: That is all right.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, sea erosion must be treated similarly and the land captured by the sea must be recaptured and further loss must be prevented. But adequate importance is not given to the coastal land. To prevent sea erosion, construction of sea wall and reformation of the already constructed sea wall is a must. Though this matter comes under the purview of the State Government, the State Governments are not in a position to spend huge amount of money for the construction of sea walls. So, adequate funds must be provided from the Central Government to construct sea wall in the vulnerable areas of the seacoast of Kerala which is approximately 250 kms.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You have made your point. It should be recaptured and there should be anti-soil erosion measures.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Yes, as well as further loss will be prevented.