

an>

Title : Need to make available coastal land to traditional fishermen.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Thank you Madam Chairperson. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Water Resources, through you, to the encroachment of the coastal areas by certain mega tourism projects.

Madam, the Coastal Zone Regulation is in existence in our country. As per the Coastal Zones Regulation, construction activities in the coastal area, in the seashore, are prohibited in specified distances from the high-tide lines as specified under the Coastal Zone Regulations. In Kerala, coastal area is very much densely populated and the poor fishermen are using the plain land near the seashore for landing their traditional fishing crafts, for drying up fishes and also drying up of the nets.

Madam, the sad thing is that stakeholders of certain mega tourism projects are buying the land nearby the seashore and are encroaching upon the plain area which these poor fishermen are using for landing their nets and their fishing gears.

So many such projects are coming up and thereby losing the plain areas in the coastal area for the traditional fishing activities.

I would urge upon the hon. Minister to look into the matter and ensure the implementation of the Coastal Zone Regulations so that the encroachments can be prevented, and these areas will be made free for the use by the traditional fishermen.