

Title: Need for Central assistance in checking the erosion caused by the sea in the coastal areas of Udupi Parliamentary Constituency, Karnataka. – Laid.

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ (UDUPI): Fishermen settled along the Dakshina Kannada Coast are beset with a host of problems. I would highlight the following as major impediments to their source of livelihood.

Sea erosion along the coast falling under my constituency – UDUPI – has vastly changed the topographical and ecological balance. Many land areas including coconut groves along the shoreline have vanished due to the sea erosion. Diminishing land area has constricted the space meant for settlement and also uprooted jettis/wharfs. Faced with funds crunch the State Government has been taken ad-hoc measures rather than attempting at long term solutions to check sea erosion. I urge the Centre to come forward to allocate more funds for fortifying the sea embankment or else pose this project for overseas assistance and technical expertise – either from Japan or from any of the Scandinavian countries.

Estuaries of most of the west flowing rivers in the district pose hazard fro fishing crafts due to silt, making the navigational channel shallow, causing wreckage of vessels and loss of lives. I urge the Centre to commission dredging vessels for rational work along the coastline – from Kerala to Goa.