

Title: Need to relax the area description of Coastal Regulation Zone in Kerala by reducing it about 100 metres from the high tide mark and 25 metres from backwaters and rivers -laid.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (CANNANORE): Kerala is endowed with long and beautiful coastal line and it is well known for its numerous rivers, lakes, creeks and backwaters. The geographical area of Kerala is very limited and there is severe pressure on land due to high density of population. The Coastal Regulation Zone do not permit construction in an area falling within 500 metres of high tide line from the sea shore and within 100 metres of banks of rivers, backwaters, canals and creeks. The ban will have a deep impact not only on the development activities but even on the construction of huts and small houses for the people living along the coast for decades together. People living along the coastal belt as also along the banks of rivers and backwaters are put to difficulties due to this ban on construction activities.

While welcoming the noble intention behind the ban on the construction of high-rise building, industrial units and big structures which pose environmental hazards, I appeal to the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests to take a lenient view towards local inhabitants who wish to set up houses. For this purpose, the Government may kindly consider relaxing the area description of Coastal Regulation Zone reducing it to about 100 metres from the high tide mark and 25 metres from backwaters and rivers.