

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 991
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

Exemption of panchayats from Coastal Regulation Zone-2

991. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala to exempt certain number of panchayats from Coastal Regulation Zone-2 (CRZ-2);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is ready to include 66 panchayats with urban characteristics in the State in CRZ-2 under the coastal management plan of the latest CRZ notification; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d). The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not received any such proposal from the State Government of Kerala for exempting certain panchayats from Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)-II area.

However, based on a proposal received from the State Government of Kerala requesting to consider certain panchayats as 'Legally designated Urban Areas' as per provisions of CRZ Notification, 2019, the Ministry *vide* letter dated 7th September, 2022 has informed to the Government of Kerala that 66 Category-I Coastal Gram Panchayats notified before the issue of CRZ Notification, 2019 can be considered as 'other existing legally designated urban areas' as per the said Notification. Such Category-I Panchayats meeting the criteria of built up area and developmental infrastructure could be considered for classification as falling under CRZ-II area, for preparation of Coastal Zone Management Plan of Kerala as per the CRZ Notification, 2019.

It has been mentioned in the aforesaid letter that the Kerala Government shall provide all the infrastructure facility in the proposed area as per the norms of Municipality and shall prepare detailed Disaster Management and Mitigation Plans for the proposed area comprising 66 Category-I Coastal Gram Panchayats as mentioned above. The areas specified by the Department of Atomic Energy in the aforementioned 66 Coastal Panchayats shall not be categorized as CRZ-II and shall be classified as CRZ-IIIA or CRZ-IIIB, as per the norms and such areas shall be contiguous in nature.
