

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. - 26
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2023

EROSION HOTSPOT OF LANDS AROUND TAMIL NADU

26. SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of **EARTH SCIENCES** be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures being taken to save the land belonging to Tamil Nadu as Bay of Bengal continues to swallow huge swathes of land around Tamil Nadu and 1,802 hectares of inland has been permanently lost and Government has identified it as 'erosion hotspot;
- (b) whether the narrow strip between Buckingham canal and sea from Chennai till Puducherry which is a great freshwater aquifer holding almost 60-70 percent of rainfall and erosion would trigger seawater intrusion that would adversely affect its functionality if so, the details of the planning to protect them; and
- (c) if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SH. KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), an attached office of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has carried out a national shoreline change assessment for Indian coast using 28 years of satellite data from 1990 to 2018 and mapped coastal erosion at 1:25000 scale, which includes erosion hotspots along the Tamil Nadu coast. The study report is shared with Central and State Government agencies, including Tamil Nadu, for implementing shoreline protection measures.
- (b) & (c) MoES does not have any specific plan to protect the freshwater aquifer in Tamil Nadu, however, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) provides technical solutions to state government to protect eroding area and such solutions are successfully implemented by state governments for restoration of beach at Pondicherry and protection of coastal area at Chellanam Village in Kerala.
