

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1958
ANSWERED ON 08/08/2024

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RISING SEA LEVEL

1958. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any strategy to assess the land expected to be affected, or to save families residing near low-lying coastal areas who may be adversely impacted, due to rising sea levels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government plans to offer support and rehabilitation for the victims of climate change such as those forced to migrate;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken to reduce rising sea levels in the current year; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) & (b) Yes. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) prepared under the guidance of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change (PMCCC) outlines strategies for adaptation and mitigation in response to climate change. It includes measures to assess and manage the impact of sea level rise on coastal areas. The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) is aimed at climate adaptation, including coastal areas. NAFCC finances the measures to protect vulnerable coastal communities and improve their resilience to sea level rise. Besides, the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notifications also aim to manage and regulate development in coastal areas. The CRZ regulations help protect coastal ecosystems and manage the impact of human activities, thus reducing vulnerability to sea level rise.
- (c) Yes. The Government has plans to support and rehabilitate affected populations. The NAFCC supports infrastructure development, resilience-building, and other adaptation measures while National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and state-level disaster management authorities have frameworks for disaster response and recovery. Under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), together Rs. 2500 crores have been allocated for resettlement of displaced people affected by coastal erosion. These frameworks and initiatives are for supporting the displaced population during and after extreme weather events and climate disasters.
- (d) & (e) Yes. The NAFCC this year has focused on building coastal defences, restoring mangroves and improving resilience of vulnerable coastal communities. Further, the initiatives during 2024 include Climate Action Plans like the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat and the National Mission for a Green India aiming to mitigate climate change impacts and indirectly address rising sea levels. Besides, the outputs from Research and Development (R&D) efforts by various agencies and organisations involved in climate studies including sea level rise goes into developing adaptive strategies.
