

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 668**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

**Construction Work atop Rushikonda Hill, Andhra Pradesh**

668. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up an Expert Committee to look into the alleged violations of environmental laws in the construction work atop the Rushikonda Hill in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) whether the construction activities carried out at the hill top would erode away the fragile hill, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) The project in question was granted CRZ Clearance by the Ministry vide letter dated 19/05/2021 based on the application submitted by Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation Limited and upon the recommendation of Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority (APCZMA) and in acceptance of recommendation of Expert Appraisal Committee (CRZ) as per CRZ Notification, 2011.

With respect to the alleged violations of environmental laws in the said project, as directed by Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amravati *vide* order dated 03/11/2022 in W.P. (PIL) Nos. 257 and 241 of 2021 and C.C.No.1425 of 2022, the Ministry has constituted a Committee *vide* letter dated 10/02/2023 headed by representative of Integrated Regional Office of Ministry at Vijayawada comprising with the following members:

- (i). MoEFCC, Integrated Regional Office at Vijayawada
- (ii). National Institute of Oceanography, Regional Office, Vishakhapatnam
- (iii). National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)
- (iv). Central Public works Department, Vijayawada, Central Division
- (v). Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi

The aforesaid Committee has carried out the site inspection on 13/03/2023 in compliance of Hon'ble Court order dated 03/11/2022 and submitted the report to Hon'ble court on 12/04/2023. The matter is sub judice.

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