

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 767
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

CLIFF EROSION IN VARKALA

767. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pilot study on cliff erosion in Varkala beach in Kerala has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the findings thereon;
- (c) if not, the present status thereof and the time by which the study is likely to be completed;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that eroding cliffs pose threat to tourists in Varkala beach and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Ministry is likely to provide technical and financial support for the protection of cliffs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The pilot study on “cliff erosion in Varkala Beach, Kerala” jointly carried out by National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), Thiruvananthapuram and National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai, as per the request of Vision Varkala Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (VVIDC Ltd.), a Government of Kerala undertaking has been completed in 2023.

The project comprised of three major components viz, field data collection, numerical model studies and final recommendation for shore protection. The work on initial two components (data collection and modelling) were assigned to NCESS and the third component (recommendations for shore protection) to NCCR. The Main Report on “Design of Coastal Protection and Cliff Stabilisation of Varkala, Kerala” was submitted by NCCR in December 2023.

- (d) The draft geological report addressing the geological aspects and issues related to the instability of the Varkala coastal cliff and the recommendations thereof for stabilising and preserving the cliff face based on the field study and observations is in the final stages of submission.
- (e) & (f) Ministry of Earth Sciences may contribute towards providing technical support for design and project management services to the stake holder for the implementation including possible financial support.
