

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 75
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

Expansion of Kattupalli Port

*75. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:
DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

Will the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the expansion of Kattupalli port is prohibited under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification as ports are not permitted to be set up in high erosion zone nor within close proximity of a sanctuary, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the public hearing under Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 for the project has been/is likely to be held, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the project would pose challenges of water security and increase risk of flooding in and around Chennai city and also rise in saline ingress/ intrusion into groundwater aquifers, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (d) whether Government proposes to take action against the company engaged in expansion of the port for providing false/misleading information relating to the project; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to reconsider/ reassess the project, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 75 to be answered on Friday, the 5th February, 2021 on “Expansion of Kattupalli Port” by Dr. T. Sumathy (a) ThamizhachiThangapandian and Dr.KalanidhiVeeraswamy

(a) Construction of ports, harbours and allied facilities are permissible under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011, however, port and harbour projects in high eroding stretches of the coast are prohibited. The proposal is for expansion of existing port project. Environmental and CRZ Clearance for existing port was accorded by the Ministry after due diligence vide letter dated 03.07.2009. Further, the Pulicat Lake is situated approximately 13 kilometres towards north of the project.

(b) The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the project was granted by the Ministry vide letter dated 15.10.2019, which inter-alia include conductance of public consultation. Public Hearing as part of the said Public Consultation has not been held.

(c) to (e) As on date, no such challenge has been reported to the Ministry. Based on Terms of Reference issued for the project, EIA study mandates studies including (i) a comprehensive study on all existing developments, like, Ennore port, L&T shipyard etc, (ii) impact of construction of berths and breakwaters on the littoral drift, which causes the sand accretion and deposition in the region, (iii) shoreline change Management Plan covering the area from Ennore Creek to Pulicat Lake (iv) impact of proposed project on Ennore Shoals that were protecting the coast from Cyclone and Tsunami, (v) study on drainage pattern within and outside the port area including Ennore Creek, Pulicat Lake and Buckingham Canal (vi) biodiversity of the area, viz, estuary and coastal region, (vii) Socio-economic study in the surrounding villages of the project especially on the use of common property resources/Government lands.

Impact assessment and mitigation measures are mandated as a part of EIA and EMP studies. Further, EIA and EMP studies along with Public Consultation report are appraised by Expert Appraisal Committee for their necessary recommendation. As per EIA Notification, 2006, as amended, deliberate concealment or submission of false/misleading information which is material to appraisal or decision on the application shall be liable for rejection, and cancellation of prior environmental clearance granted on that basis.
