

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2947
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

Rise in Sea Level

2947. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the rise in sea levels due to adverse effects of climate change has resulted in the submergence of coastal regions of Kerala and its islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total number of islands vulnerable to submergence due to rise in sea level;
- (c) whether the Government has received any report or information pertaining to threat of submergence and flood in Kuttanad region of Kerala and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to convene a meeting of the concerned authorities of the State for preparing a blueprint for protection of Kuttanad and islands of Kerala; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) and (b): The sea levels are changing at different rates along the Indian coast as per the studies carried out at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services. The long-term data on monthly mean sea levels obtained from the sea level gauges installed at the major ports including Kochi, Kerala were used to carry out the analysis. The sea-level change rate recorded for the Kochi port is 1.30 mm per year based on the monthly sea-level data for the period 1939-2005. As per the information received from the State Government, no area of Kerala has undergone submergence attributable to climate change.

(c) to (e): As per the information embodied in the Kerala State Planning Board report titled “A Special Package for Post-Flood Kuttanad” (2019), the Kuttanad region, lying 1 to 2 metre below mean sea level, has always been flood prone. Every year, during

the monsoon, some parts of this region are flooded. This cannot be directly attributed to sea-level rise.

The Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) caters to the concerns of coastal zone management at the state level. Demarcation of hazard line along the coast of Kerala has been carried out as required under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011. The Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change includes adaptation strategies for climate sensitive zones like Kuttanad. Under the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has sponsored a project on 'Promotion of Integrated Farming System of Kaipad and Pokkali in Coastal Wetlands of Kerala'.
