

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 200
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

Coastal Regulation Zone

200. SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY:

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal seeking permission for removal of sandbars from rivers, lakes, estuaries and other water bodies falling under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the said proposal;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that accumulation of sandbars in rivers and estuaries is causing difficulties to movement of boats and fishing vessels and affecting the livelihood of local communities in CRZ areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to grant approval for removal of sandbars in CRZ areas and to hand over the removed sand to District Sand Monitoring and Management Committees headed by Deputy Commissioners for proper utilization and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which necessary approval is likely to be accorded in public interest?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b): The Ministry has not received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka seeking permission for removal of sandbars from rivers, lakes, estuaries and other water bodies falling under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) areas.

(c) to (e): To address the accumulation of sandbars in rivers and estuaries, which causes difficulties in the movement of boats and fishing vessels, the CRZ Notification, 2019 permits the removal of sandbars in CRZ-IB, CRZ-II, CRZ-III, and CRZ-IV areas, subject to obtaining prior CRZ Clearance. Further, *vide* Amendment Notification Nos. 5495(E) and 5494(E), dated 24/11/2022, the Ministry has permitted the removal of sandbars in intertidal areas by traditional coastal communities only through non-mechanized manual methods under both the CRZ Notification, 2019 and the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) Notification, 2019. The State Governments and Union territory Administration may permit such removal of sand in the specified time period in a particular area along with a specific quantity subject to conditions such as registration of local community persons permitted to remove the sand manually and shall be renewed on yearly basis.
