

On Wed, Aug 19, 2009 at 8:45 PM, <icsf@icsf.net> wrote:

Fishermen Rights Bill coming

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/20/stories/2009082058900100.htm>

Special Correspondent

Their welfare to get priority over commercial projects

Suggestions for amending CRZ Notification of 1991 invited

CHENNAI: A draft Fishermen Rights Bill will be introduced in Parliament in December to protect the traditional rights of fishermen. It will be modelled on the Forest Rights Act, or The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Union Minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh said this here at a public consultation with fishermen federations and other stakeholders regarding the review committee report on the Coastal Management Zone Notification 2008. Suggestions to amend the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification of 1991 were invited.

Mr. Ramesh said that when it came to managing coastal areas, the welfare of fishermen and their families would be given priority over the construction of luxury hotels and other commercial development activity along beach areas. Commercial structures that are detrimental to the coastal environment would be demolished and the livelihood and security of fishermen protected.

In July, the Ministry had accepted the recommendations of the M.S. Swaminathan Expert Committee Report on the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification and let the CMZ Notification, 2008, to lapse.

The Ministry also announced that amendments would be made to the existing CRZ notification for better coastal management.

The meeting held here was part of a series of consultation meetings to be held in various cities such as Panaji, Kochi and Bhubaneswar.

Fisherfolk from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh participated in the event and listed complaints ranging from environmental hazards caused by industries along the coast and unregulated dumping of effluents.

<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=Wails+from+the+coast&artid=0ZOLiSA3mi4=&SectionID=lifojHIWDUU=&MainSectionID=oHSKVfNWYm0=&SectionName=rSY|6QYp3kQ=&SEO=Tamil%20Nadu,%20Andhra%20Pradesh%20and%20Puducherry>

Wails from the coast
Express News Service

CHENNAI: Most of the fishermen who have participated in the public consultation on amendments required to strengthen the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification of 1991 on Wednesday have expressed that power plants, polluting coastal industries and resorts along the coastline have made an undeniable loss to their livelihood thus making them hapless.

They also urged the Union Minister of Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh, who chaired the public consultation meet here, to implement the original CRZ notification 1991 leaving the 25 amendments made in the last 18 years.

Fishermen as well as representatives of several fishermen associations from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry had participated in the three-hour meet and registered their points to strengthen the CRZ-1991.

Airing her view on the notification and its implications on fishermen's livelihood, a visibly emotional Lakshmi, one of the representatives of the 300-odd fishermen families engaged in seaweed collection at Chinnapalam near Pamban in Rameswaram for more than three decades, said, "Forest and other local officials harass women engaged in seaweed collection near the Gulf of Mannar area."

In a wailing tone, she told the Minister that harassment often went to the level of being robbed of their cloths and then forced to swim across the bay to reach the shore. Kosumani, another fisherman, observed that the 25 amendments made in the CRZ 1991 in the past 18 years were against traditional fishermen and incorporated to support corporates to grab fishermen's lands.

Besides this, a number of resorts, power plants and polluting industries, from Ennore to Kanyakumari along the TN coastline, have damaged the ecosystem thus robbing them of livelihood, charged the fishermen.

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<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=Our+record+on+environment+pathetic:+Minister&artid=GAnkMEWE55Y=&SectionID=lifojHIWDDUU=&MainSectionID=wIcBMLGbUJI=&SectionName=rSY|6QYp3kQ=&SEO=Union%20Minister%20of%20Environment%20and%20Forest%20Jairam%20Ra>

Bill to protect fishermen's rights to be passed this December

<http://www.samaylive.com/news/bill-to-protect-fishermens-rights-to-be-passed-this-december/648720.html>

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