

Media articles on the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Consultations held in Puri on 16 January, 2010

<http://www.hinduonnet.com/2010/01/17/stories/2010011756170700.htm>

Centre to conduct vulnerability line mapping of coast: Ramesh

Prafulla Das

Demarcation of vulnerability line helps cope with natural disasters such as tsunami, cyclonesRs. 217 crore for proposed National Institute for Sustainable Coastal Zone Management in Chennai

PURI: The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided to conduct a vulnerability line mapping along the country's coastline with the help of Survey of India to ensure the safety of those living close to the coast, Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said here on Saturday. The survey would be conducted at a cost of Rs. 120 crore as a part of the World Bank-aided Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project, Mr. Ramesh said while speaking at a consultation on the strengthening of the existing Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

Move to prevent impact and damage: The Minister said the demarcation of the vulnerability line will help prevent damages under the impact of global warming, cyclones, tsunami and such other natural disasters. People living within the vulnerability line would be shifted to safer places.

World Bank nod likely: He said the World Bank was likely to give its final nod to the Rs. 1,200-crore project by June this year, and its implementation would commence by September. Apart from utilisation of Rs. 120 crore on the vulnerability mapping of the coastline, the project would be implemented on the coastlands of Orissa, West Bengal and Gujarat at a cost of Rs. 227 crore, Rs. 200 crore and Rs. 300 crore respectively. The project will be implemented in close coordination with the respective State governments. Out of the remaining amount, the Ministry would utilise a sum of Rs. 217 crore for establishment of the proposed National Institute for Sustainable Coastal Zone Management in Chennai, Mr. Ramesh said. Further, the Centre would utilise some portion of the project funds for protection of critically vulnerable coastal areas such as Chilka, Pulikat, Pichawaram, Gulf of Mannar, Vembanad, Coringa and Gulf of Kutch, Mr. Ramesh said.

Consultations: As regards the proposed amendments to the CRZ Notification, 1991, Mr. Ramesh said the consultation process would be completed after holding the fifth and final round of consultations at Cochin. Before Saturday's consultation, three such interfaces between the Minister and various fishermen's organisations and other conservation bodies were held in Mumbai, Chennai and Goa. The Ministry will take all the suggestions into consideration and make the notification stringent to deter violators, Mr. Ramesh said.

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http://www.kalingatimes.com/odisha_news/news2010/20100116_Centre_set_to_undertake_coastline_mapping.htm#

Centre set to undertake coastline mapping



By Rajkumar Mohanty

Puri, Jan. 16: Survey of entire coastline of the country would be made to demarcate the volatile line along the coast to prevent loss of life and property during natural disasters besides to take measures to preserve and protect the coast, said Jairam Ramesh, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests to media persons here today.

The Minister was here for consultation with the populace and the communities living close to the sea particularly the traditional fishermen as part of the nation wide move for

consultations with all the stakeholders in the coastal regions before giving final touches to the proposed amendments to the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

This apart, efforts were on to bring a new enactment Fishermen Rights Act to protect the interest of traditional sea fishermen, said Ramesh.

A number of such consultation camps were held in Mumbai, Chennai and Goa while more such consultations were on the cards.

The exercise was aimed at ascertaining the ground realities before amending the existing CRZ notification.

The Minister informed that the Ministry has made stringent environment norms for the scores of new ports coming up in the coast including Odisha. The Institute of Ocean management Chennai has been asked to make an impact assessment report in relation to effect on livelihood of traditional fishermen and soil erosion because of opening of new ports before endorsing clearance on the proposals.

About the violation of the CRZ norms, the Minister informed that satellite mapping of the violations along the country's coast had been started to prevent further violations in the years to come.

The consultation programme was organised by the Center for Environment Education (CEE).

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<http://news.webindia123.com/news/articles/India/20100116/1426399.html>

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/fullnews-32205.html>

Satellite to demarcate volatile coast line: Jairam Ramesh Puri, Jan 16 : The survey of the entire coastline of the country will be conducted through satellite to demarcate the volatile line in a bid to protect the coast and prevent loss of lives and property, Minister of State for Forest and Environment Jairam Ramesh said today.

The ministry, he said, had approached the World Bank for an assistance of Rs 1200-crore project proposal for a detailed survey of the coastal area of India.

Mr Ramesh, who was here to hold consultation with the populace and the communities living close to the sea, particularly the traditional fishermen, said efforts were on to bring a new enactment "Fishermen Rights Act" to protect the interest of traditional sea fishermen.

The consultation was a part of the nationwide move for holding discussion with all the stakeholders in the coastal region of the country before giving a final touch to the Act, he said.

A number of such consultation camps was already being held in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai while more such meetings were slated for Gujarat, Kerala, Maharastra and Andhra Pradesh.

The Union Minister said the **exercise** was to ascertain the ground realities before preparing the final draft for the new Integrated Coastal Management Act to be tabled in Parliament with adequate powers to deal with the violators of the CRZ norms.

He said the ministry had made stringent environment norms for the scores of new ports coming up in the coast including Orissa.

"The Institute of Ocean Management at Chennai has been asked to make an impact assessment report, regarding the effect on livelihood of traditional fishermen and soil erosion following the proposal of several new ports, before endorsing clearance," he said.

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<http://www.hindu.com/2010/01/17/stories/2010011753040300.htm>

Minister attends public consultation on CRZ

Special Correspondent

PURI: The link between the protection of coastal ecology and well-being of over four lakh fishermen of the State was stressed at a public consultation on the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 held by Union Minister for Environment Jairam Ramesh here on Saturday.

A large number of representatives from the fishing community and civil society groups stressed the need to strengthen the CRZ Notification, 1991, and ensure its speedy and strict implementation.

The existing CRZ norms had been violated with impunity despite the fact that the notification had been amended as many as 25 times in the past, a participant said. The amended notification should have provision for stringent punishment for the violators.

Participating in the consultation general secretary of the Orissa Traditional Fish Workers' Union K. Alleya said that the traditional fishermen were the first to suffer from the degradation of the coast, be it from pollution, mechanised fishing or destructive development.

As the CRZ was originally notified to protect the genuine livelihood rights of traditional fishermen living along the coast it is important that the same should be strengthened and implemented effectively, Mr. Alleya said.

The issue of poorly planned infrastructural development along the State's coast was raised by several participants including those representing the Orissa Marine Resources Conservation Consortium, a coalition of fishermen's unions, conservation groups, and non-government organisations.

Infrastructure projects

They demanded that all infrastructure projects, particularly ports, be subjected to stringent scrutiny under the CRZ rules and the Environment Protection Act, and that no ports and large-scale development be permitted within a 20 km buffer of all ecologically sensitive areas, including sea turtle nesting grounds.

Although the State had two existing ports, the State government had signed memoranda of understanding to facilitate establishment more than 10 new ports along the 480-km coastline, they pointed out.

The Centre should accord necessary clearances for the proposed port projects only after conduct of impact assessment study. Can the State have more than a dozen ports by sacrificing the interests of those inhabiting the coastline, they queried.

The Minister assured the participants that the CRZ notification would be amended keeping in view the relevant suggestions given by them.

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<http://news.outlookindia.com/item.aspx?672949>

Centre Rejects Move for Sea Wall Construction in Orissa

PURI | JAN 16, 2010

Announcing plans to spend Rs 1,200 crore procured from World Bank to check coastal erosion and protect ecologically fragile zones in three states, the Centre today rejected any move for construction of sea wall as a barrier before the meandering sea in Orissa's Kendrapara district.

"Construction of sea-wall is unlawful. No such proposal has come before the Centre, nor any such permission has been given", union Environment and Forest Minister Jairam Ramesh told reporters here while responding to queries on a proposal to build sea wall in Pentha area to check sea erosion.

Stating that existing norms in Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) lacked provision of stringent action against violators of the law, Ramesh said an ammendment is being made in a law to give it more teeth for demolition of encroachments besides severe punishment for illegal construction.

"No permission would be given for construction of new ports, unless and until proper environment impact assessment is made", Ramesh said after a public hearing on proper implementation and enforcement of CRZ.

Under Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan with the help of World Bank, Rs 1,200 crore plan is being implemented for development of the coast line and its eco-fragile zones in West Bengal, Orissa and Gujarat besides checking sea erosion.

While Rs 227 crore would be spent on 480 km Orissa coast, Rs 200 crore in West Bengal and Rs 300 crore in Gujarat, Ramesh said.

Rs 120 crore would be utilised for demarcation of high tide and low tide line, he said.

Orissa government's move to construct new ports and signing of MoUs for the purpose also came in for criticism by the minister who said no clearance had been given by the Centre for these.

Besides, importance was being given for protection of mangrove forest along the Orissa coast, he said.

For safeguarding the rights of the traditional marine fishermen, a special Bill would come up in the next session of Lok Sabha, the minister said adding funds from the World Bank would also be utilised for livelihood programmes of marine fishermen and similar other groups.

On encroachment in the brackish water Chilka lake and elsewhere along Orissa coast, he said it was state government's responsibility to remove illegal structures.

Ramesh said Chilka, Gahirmatha and Bhitarkanika have been identified as eco-fragile areas along Orissa coast, while talks were on with Chilka Development Authority (CDA) for protection of the lake's eco-system.

Apart from senior officials of the Centre and Orissa government, representatives of fishermen community also took part in the public hearing.

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<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=Jairam+moots+Fishermen+Rights+Act&artid=gHhgNIWhQns=&SectionID=mvKkT3vj5ZA=&MainSectionID=fyV9T2jla4A=&SectionName=nUFeEOBkuKw=&SEO=>

Express News Service
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Jairam moots Fishermen Rights Act

PURI: Like the Forest Rights Act ensuring rights of the tribals and primitive groups, the Centre is planning a new enactment - the Fishermen Rights Act - to protect the interests of traditional fishermen, said Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh, here today.

He was speaking at a consultation meet with the communities living close to the sea, particularly the fishermen, as part of the nationwide move to hold consultation with all the stakeholders in the coastal region of the country before giving final touches to the new Integrated Coastal Management Act (ICMA). Ramesh said the Ministry has made stringent environment norms for the scores of new ports coming up, including ones in Orissa. The Institute of Ocean Management, Chennai, has been asked to make an impact assessment in relation to effect on livelihood of traditional fishermen and soil erosion because of opening of new ports before endorsing clearance of the proposal. There will be satellite survey of the coastline to demarcate the volatile line along the coast in order to prevent loss of lives and property besides taking measures to preserve and protect the coast," he informed. Such consultation camps were held in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai while more such meetings are slated in Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The exercise is being done to ascertain the ground realities before preparing the final draft of the Integrated Coastal Management Act to be tabled in Parliament. The Act would help deal with violators of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms.

The Ministry has approached the World Bank with a Rs 1,200 crore project proposal for a detailed survey of the coastal area of the country. Orissa would get Rs 227 crore for its coastal zone plan.

The survey is scheduled for completion by January next, the Minister added. No sea wall or geo synthetic pipe lines would be laid before conclusion of the survey. The Chilika Development Authority (CDA) would execute the project in five years in the State, he added. Till date, around 8,000 structures built on the coast against the CRZ norms have been identified through satellite. Today's consultation programme was organised by the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) and Green Peace.

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<http://newsrack.in/stories/esg/Decision-Making/5>

News clippings/compilations on CRZ related issues