

Reply to Calling Attention Motion: “CRZ Action Questionable” tabled by Shri. Churchill Alemao, Hon’ble MLA.

Fear and Apprehension in Goa’s people regarding CRZ department taking action on selective establishment and hotels, I would like to know how many structures have CRZ inspected and prosecuted for violations in North Goa for last 10years. I had complained about some illegal Build structures in my Constituency, but I am only given assurances, and CRZ department is not taking any actions for last two years. People of Goa are in fear that CRZ Department becomes an agency without any accountability. I would like to know if the Government will set up accountability in the CRZ Department to get their faith back in the Department.

Reply by Hon’ble Minister for Environment:

Speaker Sir,

- 1. The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) is constituted by Ministry of Environment & Climate Change under the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Regulations under Environmental Protection Act, 1986. The function of GCZMA is quasi-judicial in nature and hearings are based on principle of natural justice.**
- 2. Whenever complaints are received the complaints are sent to District Level Committee and Taluka Level Committees to inquire and submit the report to GCZMA. Based on the inquiry report, GCZMA conducts hearing and thereafter pass appropriate orders. In case of urgent cases where violations is of serious in nature, the inspection is carried out by visit of Expert Members. The Authority also seeks demarcation report from Directorate of Survey and Land Records which also consumes substantial time.**
- 3. There are time bound cases remanded by the Hon’ble Supreme Court, High Court and NGT which needs to be disposed on priority keeping in mind the directions issued by the courts. GCZMA keeps hearing of such cases on shorter hearing dates and after hearing passes appropriate orders.**
- 4. The GCZMA is in receipt of huge number of complaints from the people and hence pendency exists. The Authority had requested the NIC, Goa to deploy case monitoring software developed for NGT by NIC, Delhi after suitable modification. Once, the software is ready, the disposal will improve substantially. Further, the GCZMA suffers from lack of adequate staffs and steps are being taken to fill the posts and requisition officials on temporary basis to speed up inspections. Furthermore, the GCZMA recently moved to new location with dedicated Conference Hall for hearing cases. It will help in faster hearings of cases as earlier Secretariat Conference Hall was used.**

5. Covid -19 Pandemic induced lockdown affected the disposal of cases by the Authority as hearings could not be conducted in lockdown period which resulted in increase of pendency. Slowly, the Authority reinitiated hearings and now disposal has increased.

The GCZMA might have inspected about 934 structures in North Goa for last 10 years including DLC, TLC and Expert Members and issued notices for personal hearing. Based on personal hearing and documentations produced, the proceedings are either dropped if found that the offending structures are having permissions from GCZMA and from other authorities prior to 1991. If the person doesn't produce any permission from GCZMA then the orders are passed to demolish the structures which are in violation of CRZ norms. If the offender does not demolish the structure, the matters are sent to Demolition Squad for execution.

The office of GCZMA had received complaints from Hon'ble MLA Shri. Churchill Alemao in respect of constructions:

1. Cezar Vaz,
2. Model Retreat,
3. Hotel Salcete,
4. Arcacia Palms,
5. Hotel Colmar,
6. Mahindra Club,
7. Velhorin by river

After receipt of complaint the Expert members of this Authority has inspected the sites and issued notices of Personal Hearing in respect of

1. Hotel Colmar
2. Hotel West zone /Hotel Salcete.

The Authority is in process of issuing show cause notices cum personal hearing to the owners of other offending structures.

1. Cezar Vaz,
2. Model Retreat,
3. Arcacia Palms,
4. Mahindra Club,
5. Velhorin by river.

The Authority after hearing and scrutinizing documents will take appropriate actions for violations of CRZ Notification 1991 & 2011 (as amended) if any.