

SITTING DATE : 20/07/2022.

SUBJECT: CALLING ATTENTION NO. 01 TABLED BY SHRI VIJAY SARDESAI, ALEIXO SEQUEIRA, CARLOS ALVARES FERREIRA, YURI ALEMAO, SANKALP AMONKAR, ALTONE D’COSTA, VIRESH BORKER, CRUZ SILVA, AND VENZY VIEGAS, MLA.

“Fear and anxiety in the minds of the people because of the delay in finalizing the Coastal Zone Management Plan, particularly the identification of sand dunes, and the impact it will have on local fishing activity, trade and environment. The steps the Government intends to take in this regards.”

Sir,

The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2011 was issued by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change in January, 2011. The Coastal Zone Management Plan was required to be prepared within two years from the date of the Notification.

The State Government sought quotations from the agencies notified by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change in 2013 and work order was issued to the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, soon thereafter. However there was no progress in the same. In the meantime, the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change decided that the HTL for all the States will be depicted only by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai.

The State Government therefore terminated the work order of NIO and entrusted the said work of preparation of CZMP, 2011 to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai in April, 2016.

The NCSCM submitted the first Draft Coastal Zone Management Plan in the year 2017. However during the presentation before the elected members, it was seen that there were a lot of errors to the Draft CZMP and therefore the State Government sought revision of the same from NCSCM. The State Government also insisted that the CZMP maps should be prepared in 1:4000 scale in addition to 1:25000 scale as required under the provision of the CRZ Notification. The NCSCM submitted a fresh quotation for preparation of CZMP in 1:4000 scale in 2018 and approval for same was granted in March, 2018. The NCSCM requested for the Cadastral Maps of the DSLR and same were provided by the State Government.

The NCSCM than re submitted the Draft CZMP in the year 2019 and the State Government had scheduled Public Hearing for the same in July, 2019 . However once again there was strong objection to the said CZMP. The State Government had Taluka Level presentation on the CZMP. There was request for having presentation in every local body. The State Government than deputed

the officials of the DSLR for the presentation to the Local bodies in November and December 2019.

The State Government made representations to the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change to amend the CRZ Notification 2011 and restrict the High Tide Line at the sluice gates and bunds that were existing prior to 1991.

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change accepted the representation of the State of Goa and amended the CRZ Notification, 2011 and restricted the HTL at the sluice gates and bunds vide Notification dated 01st May, 2020.

The Engineers of the Water Resources Department carried out detailed ground level survey to demarcate the Khazan, bunds and sluice gates on the CZMP, 2011.

The Department of Environment & Climate Change provided expert agency along with official of the DSLR to the Department of Fisheries to demarcate the Fishing wards etc on the CZMP, 2011. The Department of Fisheries deputed their official along with representative of the local Society of Fisherman to demarcate the Fishing wards.

The State Government constituted committees with domain expertise to prepare the Khazan, Mangrove, Turtle nesting Management Plan and also for preparation of Comprehensive Plan for Fisherman Community living in CRZ Areas.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was monitoring the progress of the preparation of Draft CZMP and had granted extension of time for the same on various occasions.

The NCSCM thereafter revised the CZMP, 2011 and submitted fresh draft in January, 2021 and Public Hearing was carried out in March, 2021 at North Goa at Kala Academy and Ravindra Bhavan in South Goa respectively.

However on a application filed by various Non Governmental Organization, the Hon'ble NGT directed to conduct the Public Hearing afresh. In compliance to the order of the Hon'ble NGT fresh Public Hearing was conducted in July, 2021 at North Goa and South Goa .

The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority constituted committees with domain expertise to address the objections received in respect of HTL, Sand dunes, Mangroves etc.

Whereas the Water Resources Department addressed the objections and suggestions with respect to the demarcation of Khazan, bunds and sluice gates. The Department of Fisheries addressed the objection sand suggestions with respect to fishing ward, zones etc. The committees carried out ground truthing wherever required.

The reports of the ground truthing with suggestion by the committee/ Department concerned were forwarded to the NCSCM for revision of the CZMP, 2011.

As regard to the objections on Sand dune demarcation, NCSCM informed that the same has been verified with aerial photos and other data available with the NCSCM and that maps prepared by the Village Panchayats, shape file containing missing sand dunes provided by United Goa Foundation, comments / suggestions received from the Goa Foundation and various Taluka Committees were also consulted while finalising the sand dunes of Goa. NCSCM has addressed individual queries which are addressed in the detailed report.

NCSCM has also informed that objections and suggestions with regard to the Mangroves have been verified with the aerial photos / satellite images and other data available with the NCSCM.

The State Government and the GCZMA insisted on removal of port limits, structures and notification of CZMP in 1:4000 scale in view of the objections raised during the Public Consultation process which finally have been agreed to by the NCSCM and MoEF&CC. The State Government has submitted the Draft CZMP, 2011 to the MoEF&CC for approval and Notification in July, 2022.

The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2011 provides for protection to local fisherman, their houses existing prior to the 1991 Notification and fishing activity and State Government will ensure protection of the same. The notification of CZMP will in no way impact the local fishing activity such as net mending, drying etc or if any houses and structures existing on sand dunes prior to 1991.