

**Swaminathan Committee**

1237. SHRI K. E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee, headed by M.S. Swaminathan, to study and recommend changes in the policy and laws relating to coastal zone;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee and names of the members of that Committee;

(c) whether, the Committee has submitted its report; if so, the main recommendations of the report and decision of Government thereto;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that a large number of scientists came out publicly with articles and statements about this report; and

(e) if so, the response and decision of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In order to carry out a quick but comprehensive review of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 in light of findings and recommendations of all previous Committee, judicial pronouncements, representations of various stakeholders and to suggest sustainable amendments if necessary to make the regulatory framework consistent with well established scientific principle of Coastal Zone Management the Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in July, 2004.

(b) The Terms of Reference and the composition of the Committee were as follows:—

- (i) To review the reports of various Committees appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on coastal zone management, consider international practices, and suggest the scientific principles for an integrated coastal zone management best suited for the country;
- (ii) To define and enlist various coastal and marine resources and recommend the methodology for their identification and the extent of safeguards required for conservation and protection;

- (iii) To revisit the CRZ, Notification, 1991 in the light of above and recommend necessary amendments to make the regulatory framework consistent with recommendations on (a) and (b) above and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

The members of the Committee were as follows :—

---

1.	Dr. M.S. Swaminathan	Chairman
2.	Prof. Bharat H. Desai, Associate Professor, International Legal Studies Division, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.	Member
3.	Prof. S. Ramachandran, Institute for Ocean Management, Chennai.	Member
4.	Dr. M. Baba, Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.	Member
5.	Prof. U. Sankar, Madras School of Economics, Chennai.	Member
6.	Dr. Ms. Janki B. Andharia, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.	Member
7.	Dr. Shailesh B. Nayak, Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad.	Member
8.	Shri V. Sunder, Department of Coastal Engineering, IIT, Chennai.	Member
9.	Prof. A.K. Maitra, Ex-Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.	Member
10.	Dr. Mohan Joseph, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi.	Member
11.	Secretary, Department of Ocean Development, New Delhi.	Special Invitee
12.	Secretary, Environment & Forests, New Delhi	Special Invitee
13.	Additional/Joint Director, MoEF	Member Secretary

---

(c) The Committee had submitted its report in February, 2005 and the main recommendations of the report include:-

- 
- (i) Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.
  - (ii) Development along the coastal stretches based on demarcation of setback lines taking into account the vulnerability of the coast to natural and manmade hazards.
  - (iii) Inclusion of the ocean zone in coastal management strategy.
  - (iv) Setting up of institutional structures to address the policy and legal issues.
  - (v) Programme for pollution abatement of coastal water.
  - (vi) Identification and mapping of the coastal eco-sensitive areas such as mangroves, corals, turtle breeding areas, etc. for their conservation and protection.
  - (vii) Development of bioshields along the coastal stretches.
- 

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has accepted the broad recommendations of the Report and has taken steps for implementation of the recommendations.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Financial assistance for protection of forest land**

1238. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have requested for financial assistance from the Central Government for protection of their forest land;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the fund requested by the State Governments;

(c) whether in some of the States land under forest cover has come down;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?