

Demand for taking steps to protect manroe Island in Kerala from submerging into sea due to global warming

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, as per a study of the tidal gauge records of the northern Indian Ocean conducted by the National Institute of Oceanography, it is observed that the sea-level rose by 1.06-1.75 millimeters per year during the past century. Further, as per the India's second National Communication submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC, submitted in 2012, sea level is projected to further rise in the current century, which would result in saline coastal groundwater, endangering wetlands and inundating valuable land and coastal communities.

The most vulnerable stretches along the western Indian coast are Khambhat and Kutch in Gujarat, Mumbai, and parts of the Konkan Coast and South Kerala. The deltas of the Ganga, Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery, and Mahanadi on the East Coast may be threatened, along with irrigated land and a number of urban and other settlements that are situated in them.

In South Kerala, the coastal areas in general and special geographic zones like Kuttanadu, low lying agriculture land below sea level, and Delta Island like Manroe Island are worst affected. Because of the increasing level of saline water, the life in Manroe Island, in Kollam District is very difficult now. This Island is around 10 square kilometres, of which majority area is marshy lands and have a population of more than 15,000 people. This Island would be the first Island in the country which might be drowned because of global warming.

Unfortunately, Governments, both Central and State, have not initiated any special schemes to study and protect the people and their livelihood. As a special case, this Island should be given special care by the Central Government to study and resolve the issues.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with this Special Mention.

DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with this subject.

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with this Special Mention.