

- Lack of certification system of ambient air quality monitoring instruments in India was identified. A certification scheme has been established in collaboration with National Physical Laboratory (NPL).
- Regular engagements with technical bodies and experts have been undertaken, for knowledge sharing.

Norms on coastal regulations

854. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the cities in the world are built on river front/without any restriction on distance from the water;

(b) if so, reasons why Coastal Zonal Regulation prescribes unrealistic norms; and

(c) whether Government will consider the norms based on global experiences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) Historically, cities have emerged near the river banks, given the advantages. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Regulations were, however, brought in 1991 with a view to manage the coastal environment and the regulations were periodically reviewed in 2011 and recently in 2019. Drawn up after due stakeholder consultations and taking into account the concerns of the State Governments, public, global experiences and recommendations of an expert committee, the CRZ limit along the tidally influenced rivers has now been reduced from 100 meters to 50 meters or the width of the creek, whichever is less. The development restrictions are, however, confined only up to the limit of tidal influence in the rivers and not for the non-coastal stretches of the river bodies.

High AQI in metro cities

855. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of very bad Air Quality Index (AQI) in metro cities which crosses almost 5 to 6 times more than the normal AQI limit;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to control air pollution in metro cities;