

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1336**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021

**Impact of rising sea level**

1336. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) details of erosion that has taken place in the coastline since the year 2020 due to rising sea levels;
- (b) details of land in acres that have been lost due to rising sea level in the Sunderbans;
- (c) whether Sunderbans is witnessing ground water depletion due to the rising salinity, if so, extent of depletion and measures being taken to reverse it; and
- (d) in what manner cyclones have pushed saline water into the islands rendering all agricultural land infertile, the details thereof along with agricultural produce lost since the year 2020 due to above factor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Earth Sciences through its National Centre for Coastal Research has monitored the shoreline changes along 6,632 km of Indian coastline from 1990 to 2018. The results are classified into three different categories i.e. erosion, stable and accretion. The overall long-term (1990-2018) shoreline change result shows that about 32% of the coastline is under varying degrees of erosion, 27% is of accreting nature and the remaining 41% is in a stable state. Further, the state-wise shoreline analysis reveals that 60% of the West Bengal coast was noticed with varying degrees of erosion followed by Pondicherry (56%), Kerala (41%) and Tamil Nadu (41%) coast. While accretion was dominant along the Odisha coast with 51% followed by Andhra Pradesh (48%) coast.

Sustainable development of Sundarban is primarily the responsibility of the State Government through its Sundarban Development Board and other relevant departments and organizations. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is providing financial assistance to the Government of West Bengal under various schemes for protection and conservation of the mangrove ecosystem of Sundarban and its myriad forms of wildlife including the flagship species, the Royal Bengal Tiger. The Ministry also piloted the World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project in identified coastal stretches of West Bengal, Gujarat and Odisha with the purpose of protecting and conserving coastal and marine environment and sustainable development. Further, the regulatory measures are implemented through Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and rules under these Acts, as amended from time to time.

\*\*\*\*\*