

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 693
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

Extending validity of Coastal Zone Regulation clearances

693 SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether Government has recently extended the validity of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearances for ten years against the present provision of seven years;
- (b) if so, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether before notification, public opinion was not sought for objections and suggestions;
- (d) if so, reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has provisioned for the transfer of projects to any legal proponent and splitting of projects into two or more projects, details thereof;
- (f) whether this amendment will spur tourism, which may impact the fragile ecosystem of CRZ, thereby deepening the climate crisis; and
- (g) if so, the actions which will be taken to mitigate this?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The Central Government has carried out certain amendments in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification to align it with the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006. New projects or activities or the expansion or modernisation of existing project or activities which attract EIA Notification 2006 also require CRZ Clearance, if they are proposed in CRZ areas. Certain provisions in the EIA Notification, including provision for transfer of clearance, were not available in CRZ Notification and provision such as validity of clearance in the CRZ Notification, was not in consonance with EIA Notification. In view of the above, the Central Government deemed it necessary to amend the CRZ Notification 2011 to bring it in consonance with EIA Notification 2006. In this regard, as per the provisions of sub-rule (4) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 the Central Government in public interest dispensed with the requirement of notice and amended the CRZ Notification 2011 vide amendment notification dated 03/07/2023 to align the provisions of CRZ Notification 2011 with EIA Notification 2006, as amended.

(f) No Sir. The aforesaid amendment notification dated 03/07/2023 does not entail any change in the list of prohibited and permissible activities listed in the CRZ notification 2011.

(g) Does not arise.
