

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1981
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

Erosion of sea wall in Puri

1981. SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the sea wall along the sea coast in Puri and Konark stretch is getting eroded day-by-day;
- (b) whether Government has constituted any committee of specialists to find out the reasons for such erosion;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof and action taken by Government in this regard, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) As per the information received from Department of Water Resources, Government of Odisha, permanent sea wall has not been executed along the sea coast in Puri and Konark stretch. The cumulative shoreline change analysis by National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), for a period of nearly 3 decades revealed that about 78.6% of Puri coast is falling in accretion category, about 11.3% of the coast is under erosion and remaining 10.1% of the coast is under stable condition category. Majority of Konark coast falling under the category of low accretion while stable to low erosion was noticed at the eastern end of the coast.

(b) to (d) Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Department of Water Resources, Government of Odisha and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai in August 2022 for providing technical guidance for taking up various cyclone resilient and sustainable saline and coastal protection measures.

The cumulative shoreline change analysis of NCCR revealed that the frequency and magnitude of erosion in these areas have increased in recent years due to the impact of cyclones and flooding occurring more often in the coastal areas. Rising sea levels coupled with changing wind patterns are also causing high tidal waves and inundating habitable areas. Odisha lost 153.8 kilometres or 28 percent, of its 485-km-long coastline between 1999 and 2018, due to sea water ingress.

The various measures taken by the State Government include:

- i. Construction of revetment and riprap stone packing on the left side near Kushabhadra's mouth to restore the Eco-Retreat site at Konark as well as dredging along with beach filling on the side of the river mouth of Kushabhadra have been undertaken as short term coastal erosion mitigation measures by NIOT on the request of Tourism Department, Government of Odisha. Besides, coast line survey work is undertaken as long-term coastal erosion mitigation measures. Under the Integrated Coastal Management project in Odisha, a pilot project involving use of Geo Tube Technology for coastal erosion was undertaken in Pentha village in Ganjam district.
- ii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019 with a view to conserve and protect coastal stretches, marine areas and to ensure livelihood security to the fisher and other local communities. National Coastal Zone Management Authority has approved the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the entire stretch of Odisha coast under the provision of CRZ Notification 2019, which also includes shoreline management plan for entire stretch of Odisha. The coastal regulations, however, permit setting up of erosion control measures in the coast. The notification also provides for No Development Zones along various categories of coastal areas to protect India's coastline from encroachment, erosion and accretion.
