



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

April 30, 2016

To –
The Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110 003

Sub: Objections to the proposed amendments to CRZ-2011 Notification
Ref: Draft Notification No. S.O. 1497(E) Dt. 25th April, 2016

Dear Sir,

Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF) has serious objections to the amendments to CRZ-2011 Notification proposed under Draft Notification No. S.O. 1497(E) Dt. 25th April, 2016.

Our objections are enclosed.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Pradip Chatterjee
President, DMF
Mobile: 9874432773

Milan Das
General Secretary, DMF
Mobile: 9933602808



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

Objections of Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF) to Amendments to CRZ Notification 2011 proposed under Draft Notification No. S.O. 1497(E) Dt. 25th April, 2016

Proposed Amendment:

In the Coastal Zone Regulation Notification, 2011,-

(a) in paragraph 4, in sub-paragraph 4.2, after clause (iii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(iv) In case the CZMAs are not in operation due to their reconstitution or any other reasons, then it shall be the responsibility of the Department of Environment in the State Government or Union Territory Administrations, who are the custodian of the Coastal Zone Management Plans of respective States or Union Territories to provide comments and recommend the proposals in terms of the provisions of the said notification to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.”;

Our Objection:

This is a clear attempt to provide statutory provision for by-passing an autonomous committee like Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA) by the department of environment of respective state governments.

More often than not, state governments do not provide CZMAs with office and other infrastructure to function. Their tendency is to turn the CZMAs into their rubber stamps to recommend sanction to all projects and activities favoured by the state government.

It is not acceptable that constitution of State CZMAs takes much time. Notifications constituting State CZMAs can be made in a few hours or at the most, in a few days.

We object to this amendment since it violates the spirit and purpose of creation of CZMAS by CRZ Notifications. Environment Departments of State Governments should never be allowed to replace autonomous bodies like State Coastal Zone Management Authorities.



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

Proposed Amendment:

(c) in paragraph 8, in sub-paragraph (V), (i) in clause 1 relating to CRZ areas falling within municipal limits of the Greater Mumbai, in sub-clause (i), after item (B), following shall be inserted, namely:-

“C. The construction of sewage treatment plants in CRZ-I for the purpose of treating sewage from the municipal area shall be taken only by the municipal authorities in exceptional circumstances, where no alternate site is available to set up such facilities, subject to recommendations of the concerned CZMA and approval by the Central Government. Three times the number of mangroves destroyed or cut during construction process shall be replanted”;

Our Objection:

It has been a common experience that the authorities are generally reluctant to find out alternative sites or plans for constructions or activities to ecologically or environmentally sensitive areas as, more often than not, those are open and unclaimed areas. Who is going to ascertain that there is really no alternative site or plan for the necessary construction or activity other than the ecologically or environmentally sensitive area like CRZ-I?

It too is a common experience that the government promise to generate compensatory plantation is generally a hoax. Who is going to ensure that *three times the number of mangroves destroyed or cut during construction process is replanted* ?

We object to this amendment since it fails to propose any mechanism to ensure (i) that there is really no alternative available to construction in CRZ-I area; and (ii) that three times the number of mangroves destroyed or cut during construction process is really replanted.

We propose that a monitoring committee constituted of eminent environmentalists, environmental engineers, social activists and representatives of concerned departments should be entrusted with the task to ensure both.



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

Proposed Amendment:

(ii) in clause 3 relating to CRZ of Goa, after item (iii), the following shall be inserted, namely:-

“(iiia) Such structures shall not be removed and dismantled during the month of June to August: Provided that the facilities provided in these structures shall remain non-operational during the month of June to August.”;

Our Objection:

This is a clear attempt to regularize and provide permanent status to ‘purely temporary and seasonal structures customarily put up between the months of September to May’. This means that –

- i. The temporary structures that come up in thousands all along the beaches of Goa between the months of September to May will no more be temporary and will be allowed to remain all the year round.
- ii. The sand dunes and beach vegetations that get a chance to regenerate during the months of June to August in the areas under encroachment of the temporary structures will not be allowed such regeneration and will remain under permanent encroachment.
- iii. The beach and coastal waters will be under permanent stress from the structures and related activities.
- iv. The ecological and environmental status of the beach and coastal waters will deteriorate.
- v. Most ironically the proposed amendment states that “the facilities provided in these structures shall remain non-operational during the month of June to August”. What does it mean? It means that conservancy, sanitation, hygiene and other civic facilities will cease to operate in these ‘temporary’ installations during June to August. It will turn these installations into hubs of pollution, filth and disease proliferation.
- vi. The small fishing communities, dependent on the natural fish resources in near shore waters, will get less fish since the natural fish stock is dependent on the ecological and environmental upkeep.

We object to this amendment since it proposes destruction and damage to coastal ecology, environment and the natural fish resources dependent on the same, instead of looking after their upkeep as was promised in CRZ-2011.



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

Proposed Amendment:

(d) in Annexure-II relating to the list of petroleum and chemical products permitted for storage in CRZ except CRZ-1

(A), after item (xv), the following item shall be inserted, namely:-

“(xvi) Acetic Acid;

(xvii) Mono Ethylene Glycol”.

Our Objection:

We strongly feel that storage of none of the 15 items enlisted under Annexure-II of CRZ-2011 as petroleum and chemical products permitted for storage in CRZ except CRZ-I (A) areas is an indispensable requirement. Considering the ecological sensitivity of the coast, storage of these petroleum and chemical products could be arranged 500 meters away from the highest high tide line, i.e., in the area outside CRZ.

We object to this amendment since it unnecessarily adds to the hazard risk of the coast from the storage of petroleum and chemical products. Storage of none of the 15 petroleum and chemical products enlisted under Annexure-II of CRZ-2011 Notification are indispensably necessary within the CRZ area. The storage of these 15 items together with that of the 3 items indicated in the proposed amendment can be easily done outside CRZ area.