CRZ- Goals, Purpose & Act

FRM-505

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of coastal regulations in India is to preserve the coastal environment by regulating the use of land near the Indian coastline.

Developmental activities along the Indian coast are governed by the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 1991, under the Environment Protection Act 1986.

This notification provides guidelines for protection and use of the land within 500 meters of the coast and 100 meters along the tidal influenced water bodies.

What is CRZ ?

- Central Government have declared the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and back waters which are influenced by tidal action (in the landward side) up to 500 meters. from the High Tide Line (HTL) and the land between the Low Tide Line (LTL) and the HTL as "Coastal Regulation Zone" (CRZ), on 19.2.1991.
- On January 07, 2011 the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) released Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2011 to replace CRZ Notification of 1991.
- Also for the first time, an Island Protection Zone Notification (IPZ), 2011 was released to cover Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep.

Regulation Zone Notification, 2011

The main objectives of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 are:

- To ensure livelihood security to the fishing communities and other local communities living in the coastal areas;
- To conserve and protect coastal stretches;
 To promote development in a sustainable manner based on scientific principles, taking into account the dangers of natural hazards in the coastal areas and sea level rise due

to global warming.

Classification of Coastal Regulation Zone

- Category I (CRZ-I) (ecologically sensitive areas).
- Category-II (CRZ-II) (built up municipal areas).
- □ Category-III (CRZ-III) (rural areas).
- Category-IV (CRZ-IV) (the islands of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar).

To stop the indecriminate shrimp farming.
 Conserving and protecting the coastal areas and marine waters.



 A. The areas that are ecologically sensitive and the geomorphologic features which play a role in the maintaining the integrity of the coast,-

- (a) Mangroves, in case mangrove area is more than 1000 sq meters, a buffer area of 50 meters along the mangroves shall be provided;
- (b) Corals and coral reefs and associated biodiversity;
- (c) Sand Dunes;
- (d) Mudflats which are biologically active;
- (e) National parks, marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests, wildlife habitats and other protected areas under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972), the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980) or Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986); including Biosphere Reserves;
- (f) Salt Marshes;
- (g) Turtle nesting grounds;
- (h) Horse shoe crabs habitats;
- (i) Sea grass beds;
- (j) Nesting grounds of birds;
- (k) Areas or structures of archaeological importance and heritage sites.
- B. The area between Low Tide Line and High Tide Line;

Norms For Regulation Of Activities Permissible In CRZ-I

I. No new construction shall be permitted in CRZ-I except,-

(a) Projects relating to Department of Atomic Energy;
(b) Pipelines, conveying systems including transmission lines;

(c) Facilities that are essential for activities permissible under CRZ-I;

(d) Installation of weather radar for monitoring of cyclones movement and prediction by Indian Meteorological Department;

(e) Construction of trans harbour sea link and without affecting the tidal flow of water, between LTL and HTL;
(f) Development of green field airport already approved at only Navi Mumbai; **II.** Areas between LTL and HTL which are not ecologically sensitive, necessary safety measures will be incorporated while permitting the following, namely:-

(a) Exploration and extraction of natural gas;

- (b) Construction of **dispensaries**, **schools**, **public rain shelter**, **community toilets**, **bridges**, **roads**, **jetties**, **water supply**, **drainage**, **sewerage** which are required for traditional inhabitants living within the biosphere reserves after obtaining approval from concerned **CZMA**.
- (c) Necessary safety measure shall be incorporated while permitting such developmental activities in the area falling in the hazard zone;
- (d) Salt harvesting by solar evaporation of seawater;
- (e) Desalination plants;
- (f) Storage of non-hazardous cargo such as edible oil, fertilizers and food grain within notified ports;
- (g) Construction of trans

sea links, roads on stilts or pillars without affecting the tidal flow of water.



 The areas that have already been developed up to or close to the shoreline.

Explanation

For this purpose, "developed area" is referred to as that area within the municipal limits or in other legally designated urban areas which is already substantially built up and which has been provided with drainage and approach roads and other infrastructural facilities, such as water supply and sewerage mains.

NORMS FOR REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES PERMISSIBLE IN CRZ-II :-

- i. Buildings shall be permitted only on the landward side of the existing road, or on the landward side of existing authorized structures;
- ii. Reconstruction of authorized building to be permitted subject with the existing Floor Space Index or Floor Area Ratio Norms and without change in present use;
- iii. Facilities for receipt and storage of petroleum products and liquefied natural gas appended to this notification and facilities for regasification of Liquefied Natural Gas.

Norms for regulation of activities permissible in CRZ-II :-

iv. Desalination plants and associated facilities;
 v. Storage of non-hazardous cargo, such as edible oil, fertilizers and food grain in notified ports;
 vi. Facilities for generating power by non-conventional power sources and associated facilities;



- Areas that are relatively undisturbed and those which do not belong to either Category-I or II.
- These will include coastal zone in the rural areas (developed and undeveloped) and also areas within Municipal limits or in other legally designated urban areas which are not substantially built up.

Norms for regulation of activities permissible in CRZ-III :-

 Development of vacant plots between 200 and 500 meters of High Tide Line in designated areas of CRZ-III with prior approval of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF) permitted for construction of hotels/beach resorts for temporary occupation of tourists/visitors.

 Construction/reconstruction of dwelling units between 200 and 500 meters of the HTL permitted so long it is within the ambit of traditional rights and customary uses such as existing fishing villages and gaothans.

Norms for regulation of activities permissible in CRZ-III :-

 Building permission for such construction/reconstruction will be subject to the conditions that the total number of dwelling unit shall not be more than twice the number of existing units, total covered area on all floors shall not exceed 33 percent of the plot size; the overall height of construction shall not exceed 9 meters and construction shall not be more than 2 floors (ground floor plus one floor).



A. The water area from the Low Tide Line to 12nautical miles on the seaward side;

B. Shall include the water area of the tidal influenced water body from the mouth of the water body at the sea up to the influence of tide which is measured as 5 ppt (parts per thousand) during the driest season of the year.

NORMS FOR REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES PERMISSIBLE IN CRZ-IV :-

 In CRZ-IV areas, there is no restriction on the traditional fishing and allied activities undertaken by local communities.

 However, no untreated sewage, effluents or solid waste shall be let off or dumped in these areas. A comprehensive plan for treatment of sewage generating from the city must be formulated within a period of one year from the date of issue of this Notification and be implemented within two years thereafter.

Areas Requiring Special Consideration

Areas requiring special consideration for the purpose of protecting the critical coastal environment and difficulties faced by local communities,-

 A. (i) CRZ area falling within municipal limits of Greater Mumbai.

(ii) The CRZ areas of Kerala including the backwaters and backwater islands.

(iii) CRZ areas of Goa.

B. Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCA) such as Sunder bans region of West Bengal and other ecologically sensitive areas identified as under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and managed with the involvement of coastal communities including fisher folk.

What are the special dispensations given to Sunderban and other ecologically sensitive areas ?

- Sunderban is the largest mangrove area in the country. Nearly 5 lakh people live within the biosphere itself. Sunderban is being greatly affected by the rising sea levels and changing weather patterns caused by climate change. Further, the local communities face immense hardship due to lack of infrastructure facilities.
- An integrated management plan is proposed to be drawn up, under the Notification, for Sunderban and such ecologically important areas such as Gulf of Khambat and Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, Malvan, Achra-Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, Karwar and Coondapur in Karnataka, Vembanad in Kerala, Bhaitarkanika in Orissa, Coringa, East Godavari and Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. These areas would be declared as Critical Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCA) and the integrated management plan would be prepared for each of these areas in consultation with the local communities.
- Until the integrated management plans are drawn up and initiated, all necessary infrastructure developments for the local inhabitants in these areas shall be permitted on a case to case basis by the Coastal Zone Management Authority.

List of Petroleum Products Permitted for Storage in Coastal Regulation Zone except CRZ-I(A)

(i) Crude oil; (ii) Liquefied Petroleum Gas; (iii) Motor spirit; (iv) Kerosene; (v) Aviation fuel; (vi) High speed diesel; (vii) Lubricating oil; (viii) Butane; (ix) Propane; (x) Compressed Natural Gas; (xi) Naphtha; (xii) Furnace oil; (xiii) Low Sulphur Heavy Stock; (xiv) Liquefied Natural Gas; (xv) Fertilizers and raw materials for manufacture of fertilizers.

CONCLUSION

- Recently CRZ policy is facing a lot of problems due to illegal constructions and many other reasons but all the administrative authority is just keep silence about it.
- We must have to understand that pollution, global warming or imbalance in under water environment- whatever may be the reason, aquatic biodiversity is in danger and if CRZ regulation are not maintained properly, we will push those diversity one step further to their destruction.

Reference

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