

Re: Need to take steps to check coastal erosion in Kerala-laid

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the kind attention of Hon?ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying towards the continuing menace of coastal erosion in Kerala and the urgent need to protect the coast through new and upgraded protective structures. Every year, the monsoon amplifies the fury of the sea, devastating coastal areas in my constituency of Thiruvananthapuram, consuming the beachfront and destroying homes. The suffering fisherfolk communities are economically and socially disadvantaged, and their sustenance and livelihood are threatened. There is a desperate lack of seawalls to protect the coast, especially between Pozhiyoor and Poovar, as well as along the Valiyathura Pier and the Valiyathura-Cheriyathura stretch. The few existing man-made barriers are inadequate or crumbling, exacerbated by the dearth of fishing harbours. Despite the Union Government?s promise to enact mitigating measures through the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering of Fishery and Pradhan Mantri Matysa Sampada Yojana, coastal erosion has continued unabated. I urge upon the Government to build immediately a comprehensive network of seawalls, groynes and fishing harbours to alleviate the anguish of the coastal communities and combat coastal erosion. Your expeditious action is vital for the future of the coastal fishing communities and for safeguarding the further loss of Indian Territory.