

Title: Need to preserve and save the coastal areas of the country by implementing the CRZ policy regulations stringently.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Sir, I am extremely grateful to you. Finally you looked at me.

MR. SPEAKER: Such a below the belt compliment is not necessary, Mr. Satpathy.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : I did not mean to be sarcastic, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish you could now exchange your seat here, and you realise what to do.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : I do not have that aspiration, Sir. Thank you.

The Tsunami hit areas of India, like other parts of the world on the boundaries of the Indian Ocean, are still reeling under that impact. A mega-natural event, it has taught all of us a very important lesson. Parliament has to act and save the coasts of India. The only way to do that is to immediately and seriously implement the Coastal Regulatory Zone policy. A vision of the late Indira Gandhi, one of the most important political leaders of free India if the CRZ is put into action now in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadwip Islands will create a new environmental situation which would benefit the fisher folk who have been displaced and need to be resettled. The problems that need urgent attention of the Government are many. However, for the safety of the populace and the environment, this is the ideal time to implement the CRZ, which is divided into I, II and III phases, truthfully and help the future generations of this nation. This can be achieved by following some of the suggested methods, mely – (1) Forestry on the beach where the people who are ousted, the Government, and those who do the forestry, the investors, share the profits from products like palm, coconut, etc.; (2) Rehabilitate the displaced persons in areas where they are safe from the wrath of the ocean and have good sanitation facilities; (3) Concentrate on preserving the groundwater balance near the coast and; (4) States not affected directly by Tsunami - like Orissa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa - should take special care and enforce as well as demarcate the CRZ area and implement the regulations stringently and clear the beach of construction and encroachments.