



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**LAPSING OF THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT ZONE  
(CMZ) NOTIFICATION, 2008**

New Delhi, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009

1. For the purpose of conserving the coastal environment the Ministry had issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 to regulate various activities in CRZ areas. The Notification has undergone 25 amendments during its implementation since 1991 to 2009.
2. In order to examine the issues of coastal zones in a holistic manner the Ministry constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan in June, 2004. The Committee submitted its Report in 2005. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry issued a draft Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification on 1.5.2008 and an amendment to it on 9.5.2008 inviting public suggestions and objections in accordance with Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
3. Based on the requests made by the State Governments, the draft CMZ Notification was re-notified on 22.7.2008 extending the time period for receiving suggestions and objections.
4. The Ministry received large number of suggestions and objections to the draft CMZ Notification. In order to examine these suggestions and objections and to formulate the Coastal Zone Management approach for the country, the Ministry constituted a four-Member Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan on 15.6.2009. The Expert Committee submitted its Report on 16.6.2009 and the Ministry accepted the Report. **The Expert Committee in its recommendations has urged that the CMZ Notification, 2008 be allowed to lapse on 22.7.2009.** The Expert Committee also suggested that the Ministry may take action to strengthen and implement the existing CRZ Notification, 1991 more rigorously. The detailed line of action in this regard is being chalked out.
5. As per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 a draft notification lapses if not finalized within a period of 365 days from date of issue of the notification.
6. **Therefore, and in accordance with the recommendation of the Expert Committee, the draft CMZ Notification stands lapsed as on 22.7.2009. Further, there is no plan to re-notify the CMZ notification.**
7. It may be noted that the CRZ Notification, 1991 as amended, continued to be force and implemented
8. The Minister for Environment and Forests has already decided to have necessary consultations with various stakeholders including fisherfolk and civil society to seek their comments for strengthening the CRZ Notification, 1991. A detailed plan for the consultation is being prepared. In the meantime, the existing CRZ Notification, 1991 continues to be in force in its existing form.