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Andaman and Nicobar islands are not permitted to do the same and requested for suitable steps in this regard.

[Action to be taken by Ministry of Environment & Forests]

Inclusion of Long & Neil Islands in ICRZ category.

The LG (A&N) mentioned that initially four Islands namely North Andaman, Middle Andaman, South Andaman & Great Nicobar, were in ICRZ category. Subsequently, NCZMA in its 25th meeting, recommended the inclusion of four more Islands, viz. Baratang, Havelock, Little Andaman & Car Nicobar, in this category. The A&N Administration has requested for inclusion of Long & Neil Islands in this category as well. The LG A&N expressed his satisfaction at the assurance given as regards the inclusion of Neil Islands in ICRZ category.

Request for permission for Sand Mining

The LG, A&N pointed out that sand mining is required to be reduced, as per Supreme Court's decision dated 07.05.2002. Practically no sand mining has been done in A&N for last 3 years resulting in serious problems for the construction and development works. The NCZMA, in its 25th meeting, recommended amendment to IPZ notification 2011 for permitting sand mining from identified non eco-sensitive areas. Since there has been delay in issue of the relevant notification, therefore, a local committee under the Chief Secretary may be allowed to go ahead with sand allotment, as approved vide minutes of 25th meeting dated 16.07.2012 and subsequent letter dated 14.08.2012 from Minister of State (IC) MoEF, GoI.

According to Adviser, MOEF, there was a caveat with regard to the recommendation that it will be used only for the purpose of eco tourism. The Environment Ministry has not yet received the desired note from the A&N Administration on eco tourism and the relevant notification will be issued after receiving the same.

The M.P, Lakshadweep also highlighted the problem faced by Lakshadweep due to imposition of ban on river sand by the Karnataka Government. He requested the IDA to take up the matter with Karnataka Government as construction work has suffered very badly in the UT due to ban on river sand.

Senior Consultant, Planning Commission, pointed out that he had taken up this issue with the Chief Secretary Karnataka who had informed him that clearance has been given by the Government of Karnataka. The Administrator, Lakshadweep may take up the matter with Chief Secretary, Karnataka in case there is any operational bottleneck.