

**CALLING ATTENTION TABLED BY SHRI DR. CHANDRAKANT SHETYE, MLA**

**“Fear and anxiety in the minds of the commercial Establishments and business owners operating in the coastal belts of Goa on account of the order/notification in respect of silence zones issued under the noise pollution rules 2000. The immediate steps the government intends to take in this regard”.**

The Hon’ble High Court vide order dated 25/03/2020 in Contempt Petition No.14/2022 (F) has recorded as follows.;

*This order states that as per the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2011, clause 8(vii), the beaches such as Mandrem and Morjim have been designated as turtle nesting sites and protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and these areas shall be surveyed and management plan prepared for protection of these turtle nesting sites. This order also refers to the 234th meeting of the GCZMA at Case 1.8, where the authority has decided to declare entire beach stretch of Mandrem and Morjim covering the CRZ area of 0 to 500 meters as “Silence Zone”. The noise levels in this area shall be as per the prescribed CPCB guidelines. The order further refers to Rule 3(ii) of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 in terms of which the State Government shall categorize the areas into Industrial, Commercial, Residential or Silence areas/zones for the purpose of implementation of noise standards for different areas. Now in terms of this order which is published in the Official Gazette, the beach stretch of Mandrem and Morjim covering the CRZ area of 0 to 500 meters has been notified as “Silence Zone”.*

*Given the above order, we fail to understand how the other co-ordinate authorities like the Deputy Collectors or the GSPCB have even been entertaining any applications for playing music or holding shows on this beach stretch of Mandrem and Morjim. In this Public Interest Litigation, the issue of noise pollution harming the turtle nesting sites has been raised. However, the petitioners had not pointed out this order dated 30.12.2020 today produced on record by the learned Advocate General for the State of Goa.*

*Accordingly, we direct all the concerned authorities to ensure that the order dated 30.12.2020 is strictly enforced. The Collectors and the Deputy Collectors are made responsible for implementation of this order.*

In view of the above directions of the Hon’ble High Court, the Goa state Pollution Control Board issued Closure Direction to those establishment found operating without Consent of the Board. In case of those establishments which had valid Consent of the Board, The Board issued show cause notices as to why the Consent should not be revoked as the establishments are located in the Silence Zone.

Upon the above coming to the notice of the Undersigned, the Undersigned directed the GCZMA to examine the notification dated 07.01.2021 vis-à-vis the turtle nesting sites as identified in the CZMP, 2011, which has been recently

notified. Accordingly the GCZMA in its 344<sup>th</sup> & 345<sup>th</sup> Meetings held on 29.05.2023 and 01.06.2023 respectively discussed and deliberated the Turtle Nesting Habitat Management Plan in view of the approval by MoEF & CC to the CZMP Maps, 2011 and decided that the Turtle Nesting Habitat Management Plan which was prepared with CZMP now requires some modification with respect to the “Silence Zone” considering the overall data of turtle nesting’s in the State of Goa.

In view of the above, the authority decided to approve the Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat Management Plan as approved in the CZMP,2011 Maps. The same shall be duly conveyed to the respective Collectors for modifying the earlier notification dated 05.11.2020.

I am fully aware of the difficulties faced by the commercial establishments and business owners operating in these coastal belts and therefore have issued directions to give them relief by following proper steps of Law, at the earliest.