New coastal rules may halt Dharavi plans

BY UMESH MOHITE

June 17: Maharashtra chief
minister, Mr Vilasrao Desh-
mukh vehemently opposed
the central government's
ideas of implementing the
Coastal Zone Management
(CZM) notification as that
would virtually freeze the
development of the city.
In a letter addressed to the
Prime Minister, the Maha-
rashtra government has
asked for an extension of
time to submit its note on
objections and suggestions
relating to the CMZ notifi-
cation. They have also
demanded a meeting of all
the chief ministers to dis-
cuss the issu. Mr Desh-
mukh has asked the BMC,
MMRDA and CIDCO to
submit their reports in a
week's time, which he said

would be placed before the
PM.

In a meeting held at the
Mantralaya on Tuesday, the
chief minister in the pres-
ence of the Maharashtra
state chief secretary Johny
Joseph, UDD principal sec-
retary T.C. Benjamin and
others, came to the conclu-
sion that the imposing issue
is that of the set back line.
This is decided consider-
ing elevations, geomorphol-
ogy, sea-levels and horizon-
tal shoreline displacement.
At present, the high-tide line
is 500 metres but if the CMZ
notification is implemented
there won't be any develop-
ment in the city of Mumbai.
The dream of developing
the city will not materialise
as the increased FSI cannot
be used.
"Even though the issue of
preservation of the coastal

area is an important issue,
the excess of the same will
stall urban development and
cost the state dearly," said
Mr Deshmukh.
He expressed his concern
over the fact that all the
development projects
including even the "Dharavi
plan" would be affected in
the case of the implementa-
tion of the CMZ notifica-

tion. He said that on issues
related to CRZ 1,2,3, and 4,
the central, the state and
coastal line regulation com-
mittee should decide the
issues in consultation with
some scientific institution.
The union has called for
objections and suggestions
on the CZM notification
published in May 2008 by
July 9, 2008.

What is Coastal Zone Management notification?

After the tsunami in 2004, the Swami-nathan committee was formed in 2005, which recommended various measures

to minimise the damage in case of a calamity. On the basis of these, the union government has come up with the Coastal Zone Management notification.

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