

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.166
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022

Protection and Preservation of Wetlands

166. DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:
PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:
SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:
DR. HEENA GAVIT:
SHRI K. NAVASKANI:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of wetlands identified in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether several wetland have been encroached upon and some of them have disappeared, if so, the details thereof and reasons thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government for protection and preservation of wetlands;
- (d) whether Government has taken note of threat to wetlands due to rampant encroachment; and
- (e) if so, the details of response of Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) As per the National Wetland Inventory & Assessment, 2011, Space Applications Centre- ISRO Ahmedabad identified about 2,01,503 water bodies/wetlands (>2.25 hectares). These include lakes/ponds, ox-bow lakes, high altitude & riverine wetlands, waterlogged areas, rivers/streams, tanks, reservoirs, lagoons, creeks, sand beaches, corals, mangroves, mud flats, salt pans, aquaculture ponds, etc. The state-wise details are given in **Annexure -1**. As per this inventory, the total wetland area estimated including rivers/streams is about 15 million ha and excluding rivers/streams is about 10 million ha.
- (b) to (e) While the Central and State Governments take all possible steps for the restoration, conservation and preservation of wetlands (including lakes), developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do affect water bodies.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands across country to conserve, manage and maintain the ecological character of the wetlands without restricting the wise use.

Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of identified wetlands (includes lakes) in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e., desilting & de-weeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

Four – pronged approach of preparing Brief Documents, filling Ecosystem Health Cards, instituting Wetland Mitras and formulating Integrated Management Plans based on the health and specific threats facing the wetlands, is in place for conservation and management of wetlands. Under the NPCA scheme, the central assistance is based on the proposals received from the State Governments in the form of Integrated Management Plans including brief documents, in conformity with the guidelines and budget availability. So far, MoEF&CC has sanctioned proposals for conservation of 164 wetlands across the country and released an amount of about Rs. 1066.43 Crores as central share.

A dedicated Web Portal ([https:// indianwetlands.in](https://indianwetlands.in)) for Wetlands has been developed, which is a publicly available information and knowledge platform in order to facilitate knowledge sharing, information dissemination, host capacity building material, and provide a single-point access data repository for processing information and making it available to the stakeholders in an efficient and accessible manner.

A Centre for Wetlands Conservation and Management (CWCM) under the Ministry's National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has been established to serve as a knowledge hub and enabling to exchange between wetland users, managers, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners and to assist the national and State/ UT Governments in the design and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks, management planning, monitoring and targeted research specifically related to wetlands.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha unstarred Q. No. 166 to be answered on 18th July 2022 on 'Protection and Preservation of Wetlands'

State-wise wetland distribution in India

(National Wetland Inventory & Assessment, 2011)

State Code	State/ Union Territory	Geographic area (sq.km)	Wetland area (ha)	% of state geographic area
1	Jammu & Kashmir including Ladakh	222111	391501	1.76
2	Himachal Pradesh	55673	98496	1.77
3	Punjab	50362	86283	1.71
4	Chandigarh	114	350	3.07
5	Uttarakhand	53566	103882	1.94
6	Haryana	49663	42478	0.86
7	Delhi	2966	2771	0.93
8	Rajasthan	342269	782314	2.29
9	Uttar Pradesh	240928	1242530	5.16
10	Bihar	91689	403209	4.40
11	Sikkim	7096	7477	1.05
12	Arunachal Pradesh	87658	155728	1.78
13	Nagaland	16521	21544	1.30
14	Manipur	22327	63616	2.85
15	Mizoram	21087	13988	0.66
16	Tripura	11040	17542	1.59
17	Meghalaya	22420	29987	1.34
18	Assam	78438	764372	9.74
19	West Bengal	88805	1107907	12.48
20	Jharkhand	79714	170051	2.13
21	Orissa	153845	690904	4.49
22	Chhattisgarh	135194	337966	2.50
23	Madhya Pradesh	308414	818166	2.65
24	Gujarat	197841	3474950	17.56
25	Daman & Diu	112	2068	18.46
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	487	2070	4.25
27	Maharashtra	307748	1014522	3.30
28	Andhra Pradesh	275045	1447133	5.26
29	Karnataka	191791	643576	3.36
30	Goa	3702	21337	5.76
31	Lakshadweep	828	79586	96.12
32	Kerala	38863	160590	4.13
33	Tamil Nadu	130409	902534	6.92
34	Puducherry	492	6335	12.88
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8249	152809	18.52
	Total	3297467 (~329.74mha)	15260572 (~15.26mha)	4.63