

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3386  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000  
CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS  
BALBIR SINGH

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have initiated any steps for notification of wetlands of International Importance in the country under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of external agencies being approached by his Ministry for taking up intensive conservation measures in wetlands of Punjab?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Government have initiated action for notification of six wetlands of international importance. The State Governments concerned have been asked to provide detailed information for notification of these wetlands in the country under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The requisite information has not been received.

(c) World Bank was approached for external funding for conservation of three wetlands, viz. Harike, Kanjli and Ropar in Punjab. A concept paper prepared by the Ministry has been accepted by the World Bank. Terms of reference of the project were also finalised by the Ministry. However, due to change in World Bank guidelines, the State Government has been asked to send its proposal through water sector directly to World Bank.