

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6042
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
DISAPPEARANCE OF WETLANDS
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR;V. VETRISSELVAN

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

- (a) whether wetlands are fast disappearing from all over the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study to find out the reasons/factors responsible for it;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the action plan prepared by the Government to conserve and protect them ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) Due to encroachment, siltation, weed infestation, catchment erosion, surface run-off carrying pesticides and fertilizers from agricultural fields and discharge of sewage and industrial effluents, the wetlands become prone to degradation and shrinkage.

(b),(c)&(d) Studies and research projects are undertaken from time to time to examine the problems of ecological degradation of the wetlands. Realizing the importance of wetlands for providing food, fodder and water, and also for maintaining biodiversity, helping in regulating hydrological regimes, flood control and re-charging of aquifers, Government of India operationalised National Wetland Conservation Programme. 24 wetlands have been identified for conservation and management under National Wetland Conservation Programme where 100% financial assistance is provided to the concerned State Governments for executing management action plans which include activities like survey and demarcation, catchment area treatment, desiltation, community participation etc.