

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5599
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON) has warned about alarming pace of disappearance of wetlands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Wetland Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken any steps to initiate conservation planning of the wetlands on a national level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The Report entitled "Inland Water Lands of India-Conservation Priorities" by Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON) presents information about wetlands of the size of 2 hectare and above in 72 districts located in 10 States. Wetlands in 33 districts in the studied category are reported to have undergone spatial reduction. However, there is no corroborative evidence of these findings.

(c) & (d) The National Committee on Wetlands has identified 66 wetlands in the country. Out of which, 39 have been identified only last year. Under this programme, hundred per cent assistance is being given to concerned State Govts. for undertaking conservation activities like survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, fisheries development, removal of weed, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, eco-tourism, purchase of fire fighting equipment, education & awareness, etc.