

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1568  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS IN THE COUNTRY  
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) the number of wetlands and lakes in the country, State-wise including in Gujarat;
- (b) whether wetlands and lakes are being encroached;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring in a regulatory regime on wetlands and lakes/water bodies to protect them from frequent encroachments;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the funds allocated/released by the Government for conservation of lakes and wetlands during the last three years, and the current year, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) No specific information is available on the number of wetlands and lakes in the country. However, the number of wetlands and lakes identified under the National Wetland Conservation Programme and National Lake Conservation Plan state-wise, respectively, including Gujarat are given at Annexure-I.
- (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. Many of the wetlands and lakes in the country are shrinking in size due to encroachments, anthropogenic pressures, uncontrolled siltation, weed infestation, discharge of sewage and industrial effluents, surface run-off of pesticides and fertilizers. However, no authentic data is available on these aspects.
- (d) & (e) As envisaged in the National Environment Policy, 2006, a legally enforceable regulatory mechanism to ensure conservation and wise use of wetlands has been prepared.
- (f) Details of funds released by the Central Government for conservation of wetlands and lakes state-wise during the last three years and the current financial year are given at Annexure-II.