

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1617

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WETLANDS

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

- (a) the details of wetlands in the country and particularly in the State of Karnataka for which the Government has released Central assistance for their conservation and management, State-wise;
- (b) whether a large area of wetlands has to be conserved and managed and the amount given as Central assistance is too meagre;
- (c) if so, the reasons for making available only a meagre amount as Central assistance; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to conserve and managed wetlands in the country on warfooting?

Answer

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

- (a) The details of the wetlands in the country state-wise for which Central assistance given is annexed which include five wetlands from Karnataka State.
- (b) & (c) Taking in to consideration large area and number of wetlands to be conserved, money allocation is only Rs 11.90 crores per year for the entire country which results in release of meagre amount of central assistance to various states. Other reason for meagre assistance is lack of timely utilisation of assistance and adhoc action plans sent, which are poor in quality.
- (d) Considering the importance of wetlands, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 115 Wetlands in the country covering 24 States and two Union Territories for conservation under the National Wetland Conservation Programme for which 100% assistance is given to the concerned state governments for undertaking various conservation activities like survey& demarcation, Afforestation, catchment area treatment, water management, protection measures, fisheries development, weed control, wildlife conservation, pollution abatement, eco-development, etc. This is also supplemented by research and development activities. So far, an amount of Rs. 98.75 crores has been released to the concerned state governments for undertaking conservation activities of identified wetlands under various management action plans.

Adequate safeguards for wetland conservation are also covered under wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules notified on 4th Dec, 2011. As per these rules state govts to prepare brief document identifying and classifying the wetlands within their respective territories for notification which are not covered at present under these rules.