

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:831

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

CONSERVATION OF LAKES

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

- (a) whether a number of lakes in the country has declined over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has launched any Centrally Sponsored Scheme for their conservation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from various States Governments including Andhra Pradesh for conservation of natural lakes in their States;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (g) the impact of the centrally sponsored schemes on the conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (d) The Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) since June, 2001, for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country, on a 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central Government and the respective State Governments. So far, the Ministry has sanctioned projects for conservation of 61 lakes at a total cost of Rs.1028.19 crore under this scheme. As regards decline in number of lakes in the states, the Ministry has not received any information. However, there is a reduction in the expanse of the lakes, due to rapid urbanization and various developmental activities.

(e) & (f) A total of 83 lake conservation proposals including two from Andhra Pradesh, have been received by this Ministry from various States/UTs for consideration under the NLCP. The proposals not meeting the NLCP guidelines have been referred back to the State Government for revision/recasting.

For Andhra Pradesh, a proposal for 'Rehabilitation and Rejuvenation of Banjara Lake' in Hyderabad, was sanctioned in May, 2009 at a cost of Rs.4.30 crore. The other proposal received for conservation of 11 lakes in Hyderabad Metropolitan area, has been sent back to the State Government for restructuring within the NLCP framework.

(g) The implementation of sanctioned works under the Scheme has resulted in tackling of pollution load entering the lake, improved lake water quality and enhanced lake aesthetics.