

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:788

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS

Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) the details of the major wetlands in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has noticed certain deficiencies in the implementation of the National Wetland Conservation Programme in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem?

Answer

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

(a) Though there are number of wetlands in the country varying in size, Ministry has identified 115 wetlands in the country for undertaking conservation activities under National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP). State-wise list of these identified wetlands is annexed.

(b) &(c) Yes, Sir. Certain deficiencies have been noticed while executing National Wetland Conservation Programme in identified wetlands in various states. These include receipt of ad-hoc Management Action Plans (MAPs), inadequate consolidated research database to supplement execution of Management Action Plans, lack of infrastructure and expertise within state governments, constraint of adequate financial assistance and lack of sensitization to know about values and functions of wetlands.

(d) In order to solve these deficiencies Ministry is providing 100 percent financial assistance for conservation activities in the identified wetlands for which an amount of Rs. 113.70 crore has been released to various state governments till date. Financial assistance is also provided to engage consultants for preparing comprehensive Management Action Plans (MAPs) for those states which lack expertise and infrastructure. Capacity building programmes are also organized for training people in execution of MAPs. Ministry has also made elaborate guidelines for execution of MAPs in the field and identified priorities research areas to supplement execution of management action plans in a more result oriented manner.

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules have been notified in December, 2010 not to allow wetlands to be used beyond their carrying capacity. State Governments have also been advised to constitute Wetland Development Authorities and to notify all wetlands under Wetland Rules.