

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5709
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012
EXTINCTION OF WATER BODIES
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of water bodies in Tamil Nadu are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken to revive these bodies and save the existing water bodies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) As per the information collected through Third Minor Irrigation Census with reference year 2000-2001, published in 2005, total number of water bodies in Tamil Nadu state were 38743, out of which 7119 water bodies were reported to be not in use. These water bodies include reservoir, pond and tank structures being used for irrigation.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Water Resources conducts Minor Irrigation Census through, State/ UT Govts. under Plan Scheme " Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics" once in Five years wherein information on Minor Irrigation Structures is being collected.

(e) The Govt. of India launched a pilot scheme on Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies in January, 2005 in different States Accordingly, 1098 water bodies spread over 15 States were selected. The works have been completed in 1085 water bodies under the scheme. 38 water bodies in Villupuram district and 8 water bodies in Sivagangai district in Tamil Nadu were covered and a sum of Rs. 9.74 crore released during Tenth Plan period under the scheme. The Govt. of India also approved the scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies with two components (i) one with external assistance with an outlay of Rs.1500 crore and (ii) another with domestic support with an outlay of Rs.1250 crore for implementation during XI Five Year Plan period. Under the scheme of RRR of water bodies with external assistance, World Bank Loan Agreement has been signed with state Govt. of Tamil Nadu for Rs. 2182 crore to restore 5763 water bodies having a CCA of 4 lakh hectares. In the absence of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) from the State Govt. of Tamil Nadu as per guidelines, no funds could be released to the State Govt. under the scheme of RRR of water bodies with domestic support.