

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6138

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

IDENTIFICATION OF WETLANDS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the wetlands are identified as wastelands in land revenue records of many States in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the wetlands have an environmental and social value in the country;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the wetlands from exploitation;
- (e) whether the State Governments are reluctant to implement the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 to take action and identify wetlands for notification; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b). Yes Sir. Many wetlands have been identified as wastelands in revenue records of the states because of lack of awareness about the values and functions of wetlands. Now with the notification of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, the State Governments have been asked to identify more wetlands for notification under these rules so that they are neither treated as wastelands nor used beyond their carrying capacity.

(c) & (d). As wetlands provide various ecological services to mankind and livelihood to the communities living around them, Government of India has launched a National Wetland Conservation Programme under which 115 wetlands have been identified from various states for conservation and management. Hundred percent financial assistance is given for the identified wetlands falling in different states for taking up various conservation activities.

(e) & (f). Under provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, certain activities in wetlands are restricted and some are allowed only with the permission of Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority. In order to know more about advantages of these rules, there is a need to have constant dialogue with the concerned states governments from time to time. With the better understanding state governments are coming forward for notification of wetlands for regulatory purposes. A couple of states have already sent proposals for notifying their wetlands and other states have been asked to send request for notification of wetlands to be covered under these rules.