

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3795
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
BEAUTIFICATION OF NATURAL PONDS
Adityanath Shri Yogi

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for maintenance and beautification of natural ponds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Central Government had approved a State Sector scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies with two components, one with external assistance with an outlay of Rs.1500 crore, and another with domestic support being implemented by Ministry of Water Resources with an outlay of Rs.1250 crore during XI Five Year Plan period. The scheme aims at improving catchment areas of tank commands, increase in storage capacity, ground water recharge, improvement in agriculture and increased availability of drinking water.

Under the scheme covered by external assistance, States may take up projects for funding with 75% loan from the World Bank to be repaid by the States, whereas, the balance 25% is contributed by Government of India as central assistance. The appraisal process for the scheme is co-ordinated by Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The World Bank Loan Agreement has been signed with States namely Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Orissa for restoration of 10887 water bodies in these States.

Under the scheme with domestic support, 3341 water bodies including 28 in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, have been taken up. So far, a sum of Rs.852.29 crore has been released under the scheme and works have been completed in 1546 water bodies.