

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2075
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS
Chaudhary Shri Jayant

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to promote bio-diversity of national water bodies in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Bio-diversity Authority maintains a systematic record of the biological diversity in water bodies;
- (d) if so, whether there is data to indicate that bio-diversity of rivers has deteriorated during the last three years;
- (e) if so the details thereof; and
- (f) the central assistance provided by the Government for the promotion and restoration of bio-diversity in rivers and other water bodies in the 12th Five Year Plan in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Government has undertaken several measures for conservation of biodiversity of water bodies in the country through various programmes. These inter alia include the following:

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA).

The principal objectives of this scheme are: holistic conservation and restoration of lakes and wetlands for achieving desired water quality enhancement and improvement in biodiversity and the ecosystem, through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.

National River Conservation Programme (NRCP)

The centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) presently covers 38 rivers in 178 towns spread over 20 States. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under state schemes.

Conservation of Rivers under National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)

Government of India has given Ganga the status of a National River and has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) on 20th February 2009 under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The NGRBA is a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating body of the centre and the states. The objective of the NGRBA is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management. The Authority has both regulatory and developmental functions. The Authority takes measures for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga in keeping with sustainable development needs.

(c) to (e) The National Biodiversity Authority does not maintain a systematic record of the biodiversity in water bodies. However, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring rivers for various parameters including physicochemical and biological indicators species. Based on the monitored data, no trend on deterioration of biodiversity in the rivers is indicated.

(f) For the promotion and restoration of biodiversity in rivers and other water bodies, the Government has made a plan allocation of Rs. 1500 crore for conservation of river under NRCP and NGRBA during the 12th Five Year Plan. The NPCA scheme has an allocation of Rs.900 crore on 70:30 cost sharing between the Central Government and respective State Governments (90:10 for North-East States) during the 12th Plan period.