

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6343  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013  
PROTECTION TO WETLANDS  
Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether the wetlands in the country have considerably been reduced during the last one decade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the dried up wetlands in the country; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to protect the available wetlands in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Natural processes together with rapid urbanization, and other developmental activities, may impact the water bodies. However, no corroborative evidence is available with this Ministry regarding shrinking of wetlands.

(d) The Ministry has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Wetland Conservation Programme with 100% financial assistance for conservation and management of identified wetlands in the country. Under the scheme, 115 wetlands have been identified in 24 States and two Union Territories for conservation activities. These include survey & demarcation, afforestation, catchment area treatment, water management, protection measures, fisheries development, weed control, wildlife conservation, pollution abatement, eco-development, etc. So far, an amount of Rs. 126.11 crores has been released to the State Governments for implementation of Management Action Plans for wetlands.

The Central Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 for regulation of various activities within the wetlands.