

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1004
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
DECLINING OF LAKES
Mahato Shri Narahari; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether the number of lakes in the country has declined over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has launched any Centrally Sponsored Scheme for their conservation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from various State Governments for conservation of natural lakes in their States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Ministry have been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes and wetlands in the country. To promote better synergies in conservation/management works and to avoid overlap, both the schemes have now been merged as an integrated scheme of 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems'.

As regards decline in number of lakes in the states, the Ministry has not received any information. However, natural processes together with rapid urbanization and other developmental activities have reportedly impacted some water bodies.

(e) & (f) Under NLCP, the Ministry has sanctioned projects for conservation of 61 lakes in 14 States at a total cost of Rs.1031.18 crore and an amount of Rs.539.92 crore has been released so far for implementation of works. Under the NWCP, the Ministry has released funds amounting to Rs.126.40 crore so far for protection and conservation of wetlands in the country.