

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1918  
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013  
NATIONAL WETLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Wetland Conservation Programme has been functioning in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the aims and objectives of this programme;
- (c) the details of the major wetlands in the country, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has noticed certain deficiencies in the implementation of the National Wetland Conservation Programme in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the area of wetlands increased or decreased during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National Lake Conservation Plan and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes and wetlands in the country. To have a better synergy and to avoid overlap, both the schemes have now been merged and a new integrated scheme namely National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-Systems has been introduced.

(c) Under the NWCP, the Ministry is providing financial assistance for conservation and management of 115 identified wetlands in 24 States and two Union Territories. The State-wise list of these wetlands is given in Annexure-1.

(d) & (e) While implementing the programme, certain deficiencies were noticed which include ad-hoc Management Action Plans submitted by the States, inadequate research database, lack of infrastructure and expertise within the State Governments, constraint of adequate financial assistance and lack of awareness about the importance of wetlands, etc. As regards change in areal expanse of wetlands, no concrete information is available. However, natural processes together with rapid urbanization and other developmental activities have reportedly impacted some water bodies.

(f) For protection and conservation of wetlands in the country, so far an amount of Rs.126.40 crore has been released to the States as grant assistance under the NWCP to undertake conservation and restoration activities. Further, the Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in December, 2010 for effective conservation and management of wetlands.