

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:51
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
NATIONAL WETLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME
Singh Shri N.Dharam

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

- (a) the aims and objectives of the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) implemented by the Government;
- (b) the details of the Wetlands identified till date which require conservation and management interventions, State/year-wise and the criteria adopted for the same;
- (c) the role of the Union Government and State Governments/UT Administrations specified including the funding pattern under NWCP;
- (d) the institutional framework put in place to oversee the implementation of the programme; and
- (e) the funds allocated by the Government under the programme during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 51 to be answered on Monday, the 9th December, 2013 on 'National Wetland Conservation Programme' raised by Shri N. Dharam Singh

(a) The National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) for conservation and management of identified wetlands is implemented with the following objectives:

to lay down policy guidelines for implementation of programmes of conservation and management of wetlands in the country

to undertake priority wetlands for intensive conservation measures

to monitor implementation of the programme of conservation, management and research relating to wetlands

to prepare an inventory of Indian wetlands.

(b) So far, 115 wetlands in 24 States and two Union Territories are identified for conservation and management under the NWCP. The State-wise and year-wise list of these wetlands is given in Annexure-I.

The criteria adopted for identification of wetlands under the NWCP are the same as those prescribed under the 'Ramsar Convention on Wetlands', which include:

sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types

criteria based on species and ecological communities

specific criteria based on water birds

specific criteria based on fish

specific criteria based on water/life and culture

(c) & (d) The Government of India has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 for regulating various activities within wetlands. A Central Wetland Regulatory Authority has also been constituted as per the provision of these Rules. The State Governments implement the activities for conservation and management of wetlands funded under NWCP through its concerned agencies. The Ministry and the State Level Steering Committees, constituted in most of the States, monitor the implementation/execution of the programme. The State Level Committee includes members from various departments involved with wetlands conservation, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), stakeholders, academicians and a representative from the Central Government.

Under the NWCP, 100% central financial assistance has been provided till the year 2012-13 to the State Governments for various conservation activities like survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, desilting & dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, education & awareness and community participation, etc. To have better synergy and to avoid overlap the schemes of NWCP and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) have been merged and a new integrated scheme namely 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems' (NPCA) has been introduced in February, 2013. Under the new scheme of NPCA, funding pattern from the year 2013-14 onward is 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments. For the North Eastern States, the funding pattern is 90:10.

(e) Details of funds released to the State Governments during last three years and current financial year for undertaking conservation and management of identified wetlands under NWCP are given in Annexure-II.