

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2130
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
REGULATORY REGIME ON WETLANDS
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring in a regulatory regime on wetlands in the country to protect lakes and other water bodies now facing different kinds of encroachment/threats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of such bodies in the country, inter-alia those that are located in Gujarat;
- (d) whether for their maintenance and up-keep, the Centre proposes to provide some financial relief to State Government of Gujarat; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) A regulatory framework for wetlands was enacted in December, 2010 in the form of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The main provisions of the Rules include criteria for notifying the wetlands for regulation, prohibited and regulated activities in the notified wetlands, constitution of Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA), process for identification of wetlands under different categories, etc.

(c) to (e) Under the Wetlands Rules, 2010, 26 wetlands, including Nalsarovar in Gujarat, have been covered for regulation of various activities. For conservation and management of identified wetlands and lakes, the scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems is being implemented by the Ministry. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the concerned State Governments/Union Territories on 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments (90:10 for North Eastern States).

In the State of Gujarat, eight wetlands namely Nalsarovar, Great Rann of Katchh, Thol Bird Sanctuary, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, Little Rann of Katchh, Pariej, Wadhvana and Nanikakrad have been identified for conservation and management under the programme. So far, an amount of Rs. 5.78 crore has been released to the State Government of Gujarat for conservation and management of identified wetlands, including Rs. 2.22 crore for Nalsarovar wetland.