

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:555  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015  
CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS  
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) the criteria/guidelines laid down for declaring/identification of wetlands in the country along with the details of such wetlands identified so far, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to revise these guidelines and if so, the details thereof indicating the salient features therein;
- (c) whether the Government has received proposals from various States including Kerala to revise the quantum of aid under the programme and if so, the details and status thereof; and
- (d) whether the Kerala Government has also submitted a proposal to consider the entire Kerala other than Alappuzha district, as hill area for inclusion under the programme and if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.555 to be answered on Tuesday, the 5th May, 2015 on 'Conservation of Wetlands ' raised by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

(a) The Ministry has so far identified 115 wetlands in 24 States and two Union Territories for conservation and management under the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP). The State-wise list of these wetlands is given in Annexure. The criteria adopted for identification of wetlands under the NWCP are 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

(b) To have better synergy and avoid overlap, the NWCP has been merged with the scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) with the objective of conserving lakes and wetlands in a holistic manner. NPCA is presently operational on 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments (90:10 for North Eastern States).

A number of meetings have been held with the State Government officials, experts and various stakeholders for taking up the work of conservation and management of lakes and wetlands under the NPCA in an integrated and holistic manner. All the States have been advised for giving high priority for constitution of State wetland / lake authorities, identification and notification of priority wetlands, development of integrated management plans, securing resources for implementation of management plans, strengthening legal and regulatory regimes, monitoring and evaluation, and strengthening research-management interface, etc.

(c) No proposals have been received from the States, including Kerala, for revising the quantum of aid under the NPCA programme. However, proposals in the form of Management Action Plans (MAPs) for conservation and management of wetlands are received from various States, including Kerala, from time to time and these are considered for financial assistance subject to their conformity with the scheme guidelines, pollution status, prioritization, appraisal by independent institutions and availability of Plan funds. Till date, an amount of Rs 2.80 crore has been released to Government of Kerala for conservation and management of Sasthamkotta, Ashtamudi, Kottuli and Kuttanad wetlands.

(d) No proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala under the NPCA programme to consider the entire Kerala, other than Alappuzha district, as a hill area.