

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6209
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
ENCROACHMENT ON PONDS STEPWELLS
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

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

- (a) whether the land mafias are encroaching ponds and stepwells in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in view of the rise in population, the Government has made any assessment with regard to its adverse impact on the environment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) It is the responsibility of the State Governments and its concerned agencies to conserve water bodies, including ponds and step wells within their jurisdiction and ensure that their encroachment does not take place.
- (c) & (d) While due to anthropogenic pressures, the water bodies are getting stressed, however, no specific assessment has been made of its estimated impact on these water bodies.