

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:228

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015

Conservation of Lakes

Verma Shri Anshul;Yeddyurappa Shri B. S.

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

- (a) the details of the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government for conservation of lakes and restoration of degraded lakes/water bodies in the country;
- (b) the terms and conditions laid down for approval of the projects under the scheme along with the details of projects being undertaken in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) the physical and financial targets under the scheme along with the achievements made so far during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether conservation/development of the bio-diversity/eco-system in and around the lakes/water bodies is also envisaged under the said scheme, if so, the details thereof and the works undertaken in this regard; and
- (e) whether the number of lakes/water bodies are on the decline in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for restoration /development of all the lakes in the country?

Answer

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

(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. 228 to be answered on Tuesday, the 15th December, 2015 on 'Conservation of Lakes' raised by Shri Anshul Verma and Shri B.S. Yediyurappa.

(a) to (d) For conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, this Ministry had been earlier implementing two separate programmes, namely National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP). To have better synergy and avoid overlap, both the programmes have been merged in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA). The scheme aims at holistic conservation and restoration of lakes and wetlands for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystem through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach as well as common framework. NPCA is presently operational on cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments. The various activities covered under the scheme include interception, diversion and treatment of waste water, shore line protection, lake front development, de-silting, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation and community participation, etc.

Proposals under NPCA are considered for financial assistance subject to their conformity with the scheme guidelines and availability of Plan funds. Based on the proposals received from different States, this Ministry has so far sanctioned projects for conservation of 63 lakes in 14 States at a total cost of ₹1096.09 crores under the NLCP/NPCA. So far, an amount of ₹ 623.05 crore has been released for the sanctioned projects and work on 32 lakes has been completed. The State wise details of amount sanctioned and released to the State Governments so far for undertaking various projects for conservation of lakes are given in Annexure-I. Under the NWCP/NPCA, an amount of ₹145.65 crore has so far been released to the concerned State Governments for undertaking various conservation activities in 80 identified wetlands. The State-wise details of amount released to the State Governments so far under NWCP/NPCA are given in Annexure-II. During the last three years and the current year, works on 7 lakes have been completed and Management Action Plans for conservation of 43 identified wetlands have been sanctioned under the NPCA. The State wise details of funds released to the State Governments during the last three years and current year under the NPCA programme are given in Annexure-III.

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is also implementing the scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies. The scheme aims at improving catchment areas of tanks commands, increase in storage capacity, ground water recharge, improvement in agriculture and increased availability of drinking water. An amount of ₹ 260.18 crore has been released to the State Governments under the scheme during the last three years and current year. The scheme is now part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana.

(e) A few lakes in the country have reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, various developmental activities and other

anthropogenic pressures. In addition to the measures mentioned above, Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country. Also, in order to conserve lakes and wetlands in an integrated 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, monitoring and evaluation, and strengthening research-management interface, etc.
