

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4343
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2019

Conservation of Ponds and Lakes

†4343. SHRI ARUN SAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken effective steps for conservation of ponds and lakes in the country, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to bring a law in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has given directions to the State Governments to take stringent action for conservation of ponds and lakes including constructing boundary wall around them; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is currently implementing a scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of identified wetlands and lakes in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. desilting & dewatering, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, biofencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

Further, the renovation of traditional and other water bodies /tanks is one of the intervention areas of Jal Shakti Abhiyan. The objectives of Jal Shakti Abhiyan inter alia aim at increased surface and ground water availability, sustainability of drinking water sources increase soil moisture etc. Inventorization, restoration and rejuvenation efforts for water bodies that have existed since more than ten years and which have served the community for drinking water and other purposes has been undertaken.

(b) & (c) For more effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the Central Government in consultation with the States, Union Territories, Central line Ministries and other stakeholders, have notified the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010. As per the

Wetlands Rules-2017, certain activities are prohibited under the provision 4(2), which are applicable to wetlands notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration and to wetlands categorized as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention. Under the Wetlands Rules, powers have been delegated to the State Wetlands Authorities for identification and notification of the respective wetlands.

(d) & (e) In order to conserve wetlands and lakes in an integrated manner, all the States/ Union Territories have been advised for giving high priority for identification and notification of wetlands including delineation of their boundaries, development of integrated management plans, securing resources for implementation of management plans, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening research-management interface, etc.
