

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3427
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

Conservation of Kolleru lake in A.P.

3427. SHRI V.VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Kolleru is the first lake in Andhra Pradesh to be identified as a wetland under National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) in 1987;
- (b) whether NWCP is mandated to conserve and manage Kolleru;
- (c) if so, what steps Ministry has taken under NWCP to conserve, preserve, manage and implement programmes and schemes for Kolleru;
- (d) whether Ministry is aware that Kolleru has shrunk over the years;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the reasons why Government has reduced its share of finance to 50 per cent from April, 2015, from earlier 70:30 ratio; and
- (g) the present status of Kolleru lake?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c) Kolleru lake, a Ramsar site in Andhra Pradesh, is one of the 115 wetlands identified for conservation and management under the National Wetland Conservation Programme of the Ministry (NWCP). To achieve 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). Various steps have been taken for protection, conservation and management of Kolleru Lake, which inter-alia, include:

- The Government of Andhra Pradesh had issued an Order in 1999 declaring an area of 308 square kilometres, out of total area of 901 square kilometres of Kolleru Lake, as Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Various conservation activities like establishment of 6 check posts, 5 base camps & one striking force, erection of 230 nos. of artificial perching stands, augmentation of water in fragile locations, desilting of drains falling into lake, creation of mounds, education and awareness, setting up of environmental education centre, etc. have been undertaken for conservation of Kolleru Lake by the State Government.

- So far, an amount of ₹ 16.77 crore has been incurred for conservation and management of Kolleru lake, which includes ₹ 2.4957 crore released by the Ministry to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the NPCA to Kolleru Lake for conservation activities like eco-development, eco tourism, removal of weeds, catchment area treatment, monitoring, public awareness, etc.
- Being a Ramsar site, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were applicable to Kolleru Lake. Similarly, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 are also applicable to Kolleru Lake.

(d) & (e) Kolleru Lake has reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, industrialization, pisciculture, various developmental activities and other anthropogenic pressures.

(f) & (g) The funding pattern of 70:30 in April, 2013 between Central and State Governments has been changed to 50:50 in April, 2015 which has now been revised to 60:40 in April, 2016 as per the Niti Aayog OM No. O-11013/02/2015-CSS & CMC dated 17.08.2016. Kolleru Lake is protected as Wildlife Sanctuary under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
