

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1504
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

State of lakes in the country

1504. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:

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

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the number of lakes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has chalked out any plan for their conservation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the targets fixed and the achievements made thereunder; and
- (f) the details of lakes taken up/proposed to be taken up during the next three years?

ANSWER

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

a) & (b) No such data is available in the Ministry. However, rapid urbanization, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do stress water bodies.

(c) to (f) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of identified wetlands (includes 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.

The central assistance is based on the proposals received from the State Governments, conformity with the guidelines and budget availability. Accordingly, so far, MoEF&CC has sanctioned projects for conservation of 150 wetlands in 15 States & 1 UT in the country and released an amount of Rs. 936 crore as central share under the scheme.

For more effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the MoEF&CC 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.

Further, works related to water resources development & management are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments,

Government of India (through Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies etc.

Under the RRR of water bodies scheme, as per the guidelines, water bodies with water spread area of 2 to 10 ha in urban areas and more than 5 ha in rural areas are considered for inclusion. Under the scheme, there are 1964 water bodies with estimated cost of Rs. 1697.63 crore. Out of these, 664 water bodies were completed upto March, 2018, as reported by States. Total Central Assistance (CA) released upto March, 2018 is Rs. 344.315 crore. In the current financial year, Rs. 22.095 crore has been released as CA under this scheme to 3 states so far. Central Assistance released under the scheme depends upon the proposals received from the state governments and availability of the budget at the centre level.
