

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA  
REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1212**

ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

**RESTORATION OF RIVERS AND WATER BODIES IN TAMIL NADU**

1212. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has sanctioned any amount for the restoration of rivers and water bodies in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last five years, if so the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has provided any financial assistance for the revival and restoration of marsh lands of Pallikaranai, several lakes, and water bodies situated in Chennai and adjoining districts of Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur; and
- (c) the measures taken or to be taken by Government to protect the Pallikaranai marshlands and water bodies from being encroached and devastated by in discrete constructions, landfills, and garbage dumps?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) to (c)** Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing process. It is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Local Bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents before discharging into rivers and other water bodies, land or coastal waters for prevention and control of pollution therein.

This Ministry, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers, on cost sharing basis. Under NRCP all rivers of the country, excluding river Ganga and its tributaries are covered. Different pollution abatement projects which are admissible under NRCP include sewerage networks, interception and diversion works, sewage treatment plants (STPs), etc.

Proposals for pollution abatement works in towns along polluted river stretches are received from the States/UTs from time to time for consideration under the NRCP, and sanctioned based on their prioritization, conformity with guidelines, availability of Plan funds, etc.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement projects for the conservation of six rivers namely Cauvery, Adyar, Cooum, Vaigai, Vennar, and Tamrabarani were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 908.13 crore for 13

towns, namely Bhiwani, Chennai, Erode, Karur, Kumarapalayam, Kumbakonam, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Pallipalayam, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Trichirappalli and Trichi, and STPs with a total capacity of 477.66 million litre per day have been created in Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme, this Ministry has not sanctioned any fund to Govt. of Tamil Nadu during the last five years.

As far as restoration of water bodies is concerned, the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) is also implementing the scheme of Repair, Renovation, and Restoration (RRR). This scheme, now part of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Har Khet Ko Pani (PMKSY-HKKP), has multiple objectives like the comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies, protection works to avoid encroachments, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement in agriculture and horticulture productivity, and improvement of the catchment area of tank commands, etc.

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is being implemented for conservation and management of wetlands/lake in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State/UT 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 & de-weeding, storm water management, bio-remediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, bio-diversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc. Funds amounting to Rs 363.10 Lakh was released to Govt. of Tamil Nadu for conservation of wetlands including Pallikarni wetland during 2017-18 to 2021-22 is given below.

**(Rs. in Lakh)**

S.No	Name of wetland	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
1	Point Calimere	25.048	49.8984	44.77	-	-	119.7164
2	Kazuveli Kaliveli	36.56	24.94	38.31	-	-	99.81
3	Pallaikarni wetland	44.187	45.25	54.135	-	-	143.572
<b>Total</b>		<b>105.795</b>	<b>120.0884</b>	<b>137.215</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>363.0984</b>

MoEF&CC notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017. The notification constituted, National Wetlands Committee (NWC) at Central level and Wetlands Authorities at State and UT to oversee protection, conservation and management of wetlands across the country. The notification also specifies the prohibition or regulation of certain activities to safeguard the wetlands from encroachment, pollution, solid waste dumping, etc. Govt. of India declared Pallikaranai wetland as Ramsar site, i.e., Wetland of International Importance under Ramsar convention for its protection, conservation and management.

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