

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 40
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

Disappearance of wetlands

40. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that wetlands in the country are disappearing rapidly, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is fact that Najafgarh lake near Delhi is prominent example of rapidly drying water sources as it has shrunk by over 50 percent, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of work done to rejuvenate the Harike wetland in Punjab and Najafgarh lake near Delhi; and
- (d) the details of action taken by Government to rejuvenate wetlands across the country, State-wise and District wise for Punjab?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Rapid urbanization, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do stress water bodies. Various departments in the Central Government and the State Governments are engaged in restoration, conservation and preservation of lakes and wetlands. 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.
- (b) Such scientific data pertaining to Najafgarh Jheel is not available on records.
- (c) Harike, a Ramsar site, is one of those wetlands identified by the state government of Punjab under “Wetlands Rejuvenation programme” across country which was initiated by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Further, a total of Rs 4.93 Cr was released to State Government as financial assistance as central share, till date, under National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-system (NPCA) scheme for various activities such as Survey and Demarcation, Inventorization of biodiversity, Catchment Area Treatment, Protection Measures, Restoration Measures, Water management, Biodiversity conservation, Release of fish seeds, Removal of water hyacinth, Enrolment and empowerment of wetland mitras, Sustainable Resource Development, Weed control, Pollution control, etc.

In case of Najafgarh Jheel, a combined Environment Management Plan (EMP) was prepared based on the plans submitted by Govt of Delhi and Haryana for rejuvenation

and restoration of Najafgarh Jheel in compliance to the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) dated 17.09.2020 and the same was submitted to Hon'ble NGT on 13.12.2021. The EMP includes various activities, such as construction of bund, sediment removal, restoring flood pulses and hydrological connectivity, pollution assessment and its abatement, biodiversity conservation, management of invasive species, management of agricultural land around the wetland, water bird census, management of fish, construction of soil/mud mounds, planting of reeds, research and capacity development.

- (d) The Ministry had undertaken 'Wetlands Rejuvenation' programme within the framework of 169 transformative ideas of Government of India i.e. "Start work on Restoration & Rejuvenation of at least 100 major wetlands across the country". In the first cycle of the programme, 130 wetlands were selected in consultation with State Governments including 5 (five nos.) wetlands from Punjab, as per Annexure. Six handholding workshops in all parts of the country were organized by this Ministry to impart technical support to the wetlands managers in implementing the programme.

List of 130 wetlands identified for rejuvenation and restoration of wetlands

Sl No	Name of the States	Number of Wetlands
1	Andhra Pradesh	5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5
3	Assam	2
4	Bihar	3
5	Chhattisgarh	5
6	Delhi	5
7	Gujarat	9
8	Haryana	2
9	Himachal Pradesh	6
10	Jammu & Kashmir	6
11	Jharkhand	5
12	Karnataka	11
13	Kerala	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	2
15	Maharashtra	6
16	Manipur	2
17	Meghalaya	1
18	Mizoram	4
19	Nagaland	2
20	Odisha	3
21	Punjab	5
		Harike, Tarn Taran Sahib/Ferozpur Districts
		Kanjli, Kapurthala District
		Ropar, Rupnagar/Nawanshar Districts
		Keshopur, Gurudaspur District
		Nangal, Rupnagar District
22	Rajasthan	6
23	Sikkim	3
24	Tamil Nadu	4
25	Telangana	2
26	Tripura	2
27	Uttar Pradesh	13
28	Uttarakhand	2
29	West Bengal	3
30	Goa	1
31	Chandigarh	1
	Total	130

