

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1638**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

**Protection of wetlands**

1638. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

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

- (a) the number of wetlands in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to protect and rejuvenate these wetlands including action taken to prevent them from getting converted into waste and garbage dumpyards;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to encourage local community participation in the management and protection of wetlands; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) As per the "National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas, 2017 published by Space Applications Centre- ISRO Ahmedabad, a total of 2,31,195 wetlands (at 1:50000 scales and area  $\geq$  2.25 ha) have been mapped in the Country. The total wetland area estimated is 15.98 million hectare (mha) including rivers and excluding paddy field areas that is around 4.86% of the geographic area of the country. The State/UT-wise wetland distribution in the country is at **Annexure**.

(b) to (d) Ministry has taken several steps for protection and rejuvenation of wetlands across the country. MoEF&CC has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands across country to conserve, manage and maintain the ecological character of the wetlands without restricting the wise use. Further, said Rules restricts the activities, like solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has published comprehensive guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. The above-said guidelines recommend the management of each notified wetland to be guided by an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) which *inter-alia* describes monitoring requirements for detecting changes in ecological character and for measuring the effectiveness of management.

Further, MoEF&CC is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands 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 & de-weeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, **community participation**, etc.

The Ministry had also 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 for which collection of baseline information and rapid assessment of wetlands condition was done during the 100 days implementation period. Based on the health status, 32 wetlands were identified and concerned States/UTs were advised to take necessary action for their rejuvenation and restoration.

A dedicated Web Portal ([https:// indianwetlands.in](https://indianwetlands.in)) for Wetlands has been developed, which is a publicly available information and knowledge platform in order to facilitate knowledge sharing, information dissemination, host capacity building material, and provide a single-point access data repository for processing information and making it available to the stakeholders in an efficient and accessible manner.

Ministry has launched Mission Sahbhagita, on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which is an important step towards participatory conservation and wise use of wetlands to enable a society ownership approach with communities leading at the forefront. The Ministry has also launched 'Save Wetlands Campaign' as part of this Mission on 04.02.2023 at Goa on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2023. This campaign is structured on a "whole of society" approach for wetlands conservation, enabling affirmative actions for wetlands conservation at all levels of the society and involving all strata of the society.

Acknowledging the importance of conservation of Ramsar Sites, the Government of India has announced '*Amrit Dharohar*' initiative as part of this year's Budget announcement to promote the unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites. MoEFCC has launched Amrit Dharohar implementation strategy on 05.06.2023 to promote the unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites and to encourage optimal use of wetlands and enhance biodiversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities. Implementation of Amrit Dharohar exclusively focuses on the Ramsar Sites so as to create demonstration, replication and upscaling effect on other wetlands of national and international importance.

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Annexure-1 referred to in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 1638 to be answered on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 on 'Protection of wetlands'

**State-wise wetland distribution in India**

<b>Decadal wetland inventory in different States</b>				
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State Name</b>	<b>2017-18</b>		
		<b>Number</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Area (% of wetland)</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	24104	1141606	7.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1182	151104	0.95
3	Assam	5902	849078	5.31
4	Bihar	4526	374766	2.34
5	Chhattisgarh	11457	342443	2.14
6	Goa	742	24749	0.15
7	Gujarat	17613	3499429	21.9
8	Haryana	1905	33649	0.21
9	Himachal Pradesh	215	94011	0.59
10	Jharkhand	2635	187045	1.17
11	Karnataka	14936	787127	4.93
12	Kerala	1399	158336	0.99
13	Madhya Pradesh	13947	861736	5.39
14	Maharashtra	25935	1152625	7.21
15	Manipur	132	67408	0.42
16	Meghalaya	225	31002	0.19
17	Mizoram	127	19476	0.12
18	Nagaland	148	21118	0.13
19	Odisha	13331	719942	4.5
20	Punjab	1190	47024	0.29
21	Rajasthan	13321	778824	4.87
22	Sikkim	259	7049	0.04
23	Tamil Nadu	26883	925712	5.79
24	Telangana	12338	566680	3.55
25	Tripura	416	18438	0.12
26	Uttar Pradesh	18555	1104562	6.91
27	Uttarakhand	172	112882	0.71
28	West Bengal	12955	1130127	7.07

29	Andaman&Nicobar	2774	143238	0.9
30	Chandigarh	11	336	0
31	Dadra NagarHaveli	12	2063	0.01
32	Daman and Diu	59	2728	0.02
33	Delhi	123	2773	0.02
34	Jammu & Kashmir	404	164110	1.03
35	Lakshadweep	50	79716	0.5
36	Ladakh	1073	373049	2.33
37	Puducherry	139	5555	0.03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>231195</b>	<b>15981516</b>	<b>100</b>