

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1970
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

Encroachment of Ramsar-designated Pallikaranai Marshland

1970. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:

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

- (a) whether Central Government is aware that 38 per cent of Ramsar designated Pallikaranai Marshland at Chennai is under rampant illegal encroachments;
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Central Government is also aware that both National Institute of Ocean Technology and National Institute of Wind Energy are occupying 20.71 Ha and 1.93 Ha, respectively, of the above Ramsar-designated Pallikaranai Marshland; and
- (d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b) As per information provided by the State Govt. of Tamil Nadu, five encroachment settlements have been identified based on the Biometric Survey in the Pallikaranai marshland in Mahalakshmi Nagar, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Quiad-e-millet Nagar, K.P.Kandan Nagar and Kamatchi Nagar. As informed by the State Govt., the protection, conservation and management of the Pallikaranai Marshland is being monitored continuously and a High Power Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to Government has been constituted specifically for the revival of the Pallikaranai Marshland.

(c) & (d) As per the information provided by the State Govt., the National Institute of Ocean Technology already exists within the Ramsar site boundary prior to its declaration as a Ramsar site, whereas the National Institute of Wind Energy, Chennai does not fall within the Pallikaranai Ramsar site as per the available records. The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority has been suitably advised not to give any permission to the builders/individuals, which can fragment the Pallikaranai marshland by way of construction of roads & buildings.
