

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2778**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

**Natural lakes on the verge of dying**

2778. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that large number of natural lakes in the country are on the verge of dying;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken to avoid encroachments and to ensure a 10-meter buffer zone to avoid any type of destruction of the same;
- (d) whether Government is aware that the waste from newly constructed flats/houses/buildings are discharged to such natural lakes; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to prevent such types of pollution in natural lakes?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e) While the Central and State Governments take all possible steps for the preservation, conservation and restoration of wetlands (includes lakes), developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do impact wetlands.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules, inter-alia, prohibit conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind, solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements and any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these Rules. Further, vide these Rules, the State/UT Wetlands Authorities have been constituted which are responsible for protection and conservation of wetlands.

MoEF&CC is currently 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/UT Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater.

It is the responsibility of the States/UTs and local bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into water bodies so as to prevent and control pollution therein. All new construction of flats/houses/buildings require prior approval of building plans from relevant competent Urban Development bodies in the State which are duty bound to grant approval only after ensuring proper disposal mechanism besides confirming to the general and specific conditions as laid down in the respective Environmental Clearance issued as per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification, 2006 as amended and applicable. The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, provide the statutory framework for management of solid waste in the country. As per these Rules, the local authorities and village panchayats are responsible for solid waste management.

Further, Government of India has stipulated General discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with an aim to prevent pollution in the water bodies. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) works with all SPCBs to ensure compliance of the norms through SPCBs/PCCs who are the implementing & monitoring arm for the same. CPCB issues periodic directions to all the concerned departments in the States for management of sewage and waste water in accordance with the provisions notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and for ensuring proper operation of existing Sewage Treatment Plants, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and industrial pollution control, under Section 18 (1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as well as under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. “Indicative Guidelines for Restoration of Water Bodies” have been issued by CPCB in June, 2019 as a guidance to the Stakeholders for ensuring restoration/ rejuvenation of water bodies. CPCB has further organized workshop on ‘Restoration of Water Bodies’ for stakeholders with the aim of facilitating preparation and execution of action plans for restoration of water bodies.

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