

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3729
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

Demarcation and ground truthing of wetlands

3729. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that the Supreme Court has directed the State Governments and Union Territories to demarcate and ground-truth the 231195 wetlands within three months, expanding protection to wetlands identified in 2017 order, using satellite data from Space Application Centre (SAC) in ISRO for verification, if so, the details of the steps taken thereof;
- (b) whether the Union Government has any details of the steps taken by Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard; and
- (c) if so the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 11.12.2024 in Writ Petition No. 304/2018 (Anand Arya vs. Union of India), along with connected matters, directed each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities to complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State/UT by SAC Atlas, 2021 within three months.

In compliance of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) issued an Office Memorandum dated 20.12.2024 requesting the States and UTs to furnish their time-bound action plans for completing the ground truthing and boundary demarcation and also send Progress Reports on a fortnightly basis. Directions were also issued to all States/UTs to comply with the order in the meeting of National Wetlands Committee held on 27.12.2024. MoEF&CC along with SAC and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) are conducting daily virtual meetings with States & UTs to facilitate and monitor the progress made by the States & UTs in the ground-truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands.

Based on the information provided by the States & UTs, out of the 2,31,195 wetlands identified in SAC Atlas, 2021, ground-truthing of 1,60,237 wetlands and boundary demarcation of 78,801 wetlands have been completed, as on 27.03.2025.

(b) to (c) As per the information provided by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, out of 26,883 wetlands identified in SAC Atlas, 2021, ground-truthing of 25,282 wetlands and boundary demarcation of 17,940 wetlands have been completed, as on 27.03.2025.
