

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 708

ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

CENSUS OF WATER BODIES

708. SHRI YERRAM VENKATA SUBBA REDDY

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted Census of water bodies in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are nearly 91,000 water bodies in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) if so, whether it is also a fact that there are nearly 4,000 water bodies that have been encroached; and
- (d) if so, manner in which the Central Government is sensitizing the State Government regarding importance of water bodies for socio-economic development and sustainable water security to the local population and removing encroachments?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Yes. Ministry of Jal Shakti has conducted the 1st Census of Water bodies in 33 States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Irrigation Census” with reference year 2017-18 with 100% central assistance. The census was conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India in all States/UTs through nodal departments identified in each State/UT for this purpose.

(b) As per the report of first census of water bodies, there are 1,90,777 water bodies in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) As per the report of first census of water bodies, 3920 water bodies have been encroached.

(d) Action on reported encroachment of water bodies comes under the purview of the State Government concerned.

However, the Union Government has been sensitizing the State Governments regarding importance of water bodies for socio economic development and sustainable water security to the local population. Need for taking necessary steps for keeping the water bodies encroachment free, such as inclusion of water bodies in land records and making them integral part of town planning process, strict action against encroachers, etc. are also being emphasized to the State Governments by Union Government, from time to time.
