

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2134
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

Conservation of Santragachi Jheel

2134. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) the measures taken by Government and South Eastern Railway to address pollution in Santragachi Jheel, particularly regarding sewage treatment plants and prevention of sewage inflow;
- (b) steps being taken to restore and maintain Santragachi Jheel's biodiversity, especially since its water quality has become unfit for wildlife and fish;
- (c) whether Government has initiated any formal process to nominate Santragachi Jheel as a Ramsar Site, if so, the current status and supporting criteria; and
- (d) the details of actions taken by authorities on NGT's direction and the manner in which the efforts are being monitored to ensure ecological health?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c)

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) provided financial assistance to the States/Union Territories (UTs) under the National Wetlands Conservation Programme (NWCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of identified wetlands (includes lakes) and urban/peri-urban lakes respectively in the country till the year 2012-13. In order to have better synergy and to avoid overlap, the NWCP and NLCP schemes have been merged into a centrally sponsored scheme namely, the 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)' in February, 2013. Accordingly, MoEF&CC is currently implementing the NPCA scheme for conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State/UT Governments (60:40 percentage sharing between Central Govt. and State Govt., 90:10 percentage sharing between Central Govt. and North-Eastern & Himalayan State Govts. and 100% Central Govt. funded for UTs).

The NPCA scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning *i.e.* desilting & dewatering, storm water management, bio-remediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, bio-diversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

During 2006-12, total funds of Rs. 38.066 lakhs were provided to Santragachi Jheel under the NWCP for various components/activities such as removal of water hyacinth, desiltation, dressing of embankment all along the periphery, plantation of trees around the periphery, Staff/NGO training etc.

Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) has been given permission by South Eastern Railway for construction of sewage treatment plant to address pollution in Santragachi Jheel due to surrounding Wards and Blocks.

(d)

In compliance of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) Order dated 10.05.2019 in M.A.No. 26/2019 in OA.No. 325 of 2015, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) prepared the "Indicative Guidelines for Restoration of Water Bodies" 2019 as a guidance to the Stakeholders for ensuring restoration/ rejuvenation of water bodies and circulated it to all the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) including West Bengal SPCB vide letter dated 18.06.2019 & 26.07.2019. The guidelines is available on the public domain in CPCB website.

Further, in compliance to Hon'ble NGT special bench's order dated 04-07-2022 in Original Application No. 06/2016/EZ following actions have been taken by South Eastern Railway:

- Sewage treatment plant along with a garland drain to treat sewage effluent is under construction.
- Eviction notices have been given to encroacher near Santragachi Jheel and with local authorities co-operation more than forty encroachment have been cleared which were polluting this Jheel.
- Regular co-ordination between KMDA and South Eastern Railway (SER) ensure smooth execution of works related with ecological health improvement.
