

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1326
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Conservation of wetlands and Ramsar sites in Punjab

1326. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of the role of wetlands and Ramsar sites in Punjab in groundwater recharge, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience;
- (b) the details of such sites notified, along with funds sanctioned and released for their conservation during the last five years;
- (c) whether Government has examined the potential of wetlands in the State as natural groundwater recharge zones, particularly when groundwater extraction in the State remains above sustainable levels and many blocks continue to remain over-exploited; and
- (d) whether any integrated wetland restoration and groundwater recharge programme has been proposed for Punjab in coordination with State Government?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, the 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 Governments. The scheme provides funds for the Integrated Management Plans (IMPs)/Framework Management Plans (FMPs) received from the States/UTs, including Punjab, for conservation and management of wetlands. It aims at holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystems through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach. There are six Ramsar sites under Ramsar convention in Punjab namely Harike wetland, Beas Conservation Reserve, Ropar wetland, Nangal Wetland, Keshopr Chumbb Community Reserve and Kanjali wetland.

The State Wetland Authority of Punjab functions as an apex body for integrated management of wetlands and District Level Wetland Management Committees have been constituted under its jurisdiction for coordination, development and management of wetlands at the ground level.

Further, MoEF&CC has taken several steps for protection and preservation of wetlands across the country, which include, implementation of Ramsar Convention on wetlands, Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, a dedicated Wetlands Web Portal(<https://indianwetlands.in>), Mission Sahbhagita and Save Wetlands Campaign for peoples and stakeholders' participation in the wetlands conservation and management, Amrit Dharohar initiative to promote unique

conservation values of Ramsar sites. The four key components of Amrit Dharohar are Species and Habitat Conservation, Nature Tourism, Wetlands Livelihoods and Wetlands Carbon Assessment. The expected outcomes of the initiative include the safeguarding and enhancing biological diversity, carbon sequestration and ground water recharge being co benefit. The wetlands carbon assessment of all the six Ramsar Sites of Punjab was also undertaken under Amrit Dharohar. Improvement in ground water quality is also achieved by taking up artificial recharge of contaminated aquifers, which dilutes the contaminants to reduce their adverse effects. Accordingly, Ministry of Jal Shakti and other central ministries are implementing several programmes towards this end such as the annual Jal Shakti Abhiyan Campaigns, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of water bodies under PMKSY, Mission Amrit Sarovar, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Atal Bhujal Yojana.
