

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 565
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Conservation of Vembanad Lake

*565. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent reports that the Vembanad Lake, the largest wetland ecosystem in the country, is one of the most polluted water bodies in the world and may vanish in the next fifty years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to conserve the Vembanad Lake and its ecosystem?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 565 to be answered on Friday, the 6th April, 2018 on ‘Conservation of Vembanad Lake’ raised by Shri Anto Antony

(a) & (b) As per the Report on “Conservation and Wise use of Vembanad-Kol” submitted by Wetlands International South Asia to Government of Kerala during 2017, Vembanad-Kol, a Ramsar site in Kerala, is polluted mainly due to untreated sewage, sewage from industrial and manufacturing units, increase in number of houseboats catering to backwater tourism, use of fertilizer and pesticide for high yielding variety of rice, and coir retting yards acting as breeding ground for mosquitoes etc. Based on this report, the State Government of Kerala has submitted the Management Action Plan duly approved by State Level Steering Committee for conservation and management of Vembanad-Kol wetland in October-2017. The conservation activities in Vembanad-Kol wetland are monitored continuously by the State Wetlands Authority Kerala (SWAK).

(c) Various steps have been taken to conserve the Vembanad-Kol and its ecosystem which inter-alia include:

- Ministry has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 140.75 lakh to Government of Kerala on cost sharing basis of 60:40 which includes Rs. 84.45 lakh as Central share and the rest of Rs. 56.30 lakh as State share during financial year 2017-18. The grant has been sanctioned for undertaking various conservation activities like integrated wetland inventory and assessment, capacity development, training on integrated wetland management and creation of resource material. Also, this includes biodiversity conservation, catchment management and mangrove restoration.

- Being a Ramsar site, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 meant for regulating activities within the Notified wetlands are also applicable to Vembanad-Kol.
