

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2362
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

Protection of Kolleru Lake

2362. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a report to his Ministry requesting to solve the problems being faced in the protection of Kolleru Lake in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry has taken any decision on the matter and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken to protect the lake and solve the environmental problems at the earliest?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d) As per the information provided by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, no such report has been submitted by them to this Ministry. However, this Ministry had constituted a Working Group to solve the environmental problems faced in the protection of Kolleru Lake.

Various steps have been taken for protection of Kolleru Lake, which inter-alia, include:

- The Government of Andhra Pradesh had issued an Order in 1999 declaring an area of 308 square kilometres, out of total area of 901 square kilometres of Kolleru Lake, as Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Various conservation activities like establishment of 6 check posts, 5 base camps & one striking force, erection of 230 nos. of artificial perching stands, augmentation of water in fragile locations, desilting of drains falling into lake, creation of mounds, education and awareness, setting up of environmental education centre, etc. have been undertaken for conservation of Kolleru Lake by the State Government.

- Kolleru Lake, a Ramsar site in Andhra Pradesh, is one of the 115 wetlands identified for conservation and management under the scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA). So far, an amount of ₹ 249.57 lakh has been released by the Ministry to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the NPCA to Kolleru Lake for conservation activities like eco-development, eco tourism, removal of weeds, catchment area treatment, monitoring, public awareness, etc.
- Being a Ramsar site, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were applicable to Kolleru Lake. Similarly, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 are also applicable to Kolleru Lake.
