

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4660
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2018

Fresh Water Lakes

4660. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

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

- (a) the number of fresh water lakes that have disappeared/dried-up during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has introduced or proposes to introduce any scheme or legislation for the cleaning, conservation and protection of fresh water lakes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government so far in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) Rapid urbanization, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do stress water bodies.

(b) & (c) This Ministry is currently implementing a scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, insitu cleaning i.e. desilting & deweeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, biofencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc. Under NPCA, financial assistance has been provided for conservation and management of 65 lakes and 83 identified wetlands in 26 States & 2 UTs.

Further, this Ministry had notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 to regulate various activities within and around the wetlands. These Rules have been superseded by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies etc. Under the RRR of water bodies Scheme under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) (Har Khet Ko Pani), water bodies having minimum water spread area of 5 hectare in rural areas and water bodies having water spread area from 2.0 hectare to 10 hectare in urban areas, which also have irrigation component are included for funding by the Central Government.

Further, the National Water Mission of MoWR, RD & GR is supporting 14 State Governments viz. in formulating State Water Budgeting under State Specific Action Plan on Water (SSAP-Water). State Water Budgeting aims at water governance to ensure that Annual Water (Utilisable) availability is within the Annual Water Availability. The State Water Budget includes performance, diagnosis of water measurement, conservation, productivity etc. of all components of hydrological cycle-supply, demand and quality including that of lakes.
