

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1618**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

**Rejuvenation of Sasthamcotta Lake**

1618. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has sanctioned amount for rejuvenation of Sasthamcotta fresh water lake in Kerala during the last three years and current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the need of water from Sasthamcotta fresh water lake in Kerala;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government has any new action plan for the protection and cleaning of fresh water lake at Sasthamcotta in Kerala and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) No proposal regarding Sasthamcotta lake was received during FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 from the State Government of Kerala. In 2017-18, as a part of the Integrated Management Plan, an Annual Management Action Plan costing Rs.119.25 lakh was submitted by the State Government of Kerala, which was sanctioned on 60:40 funding pattern between Center and State for conservation and management of Sasthamcotta freshwater lake in Kerala. Out of the sanctioned grant, an amount of Rs.35.775 lakh being 50% of central share was released for undertaking various conservation activities like wetland monitoring & evaluation baseline database management system, training on integrated wetland management, communication & outreach, catchment conservation, micro planning and vegetative measures, water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods etc during financial year 2017-18 in Sasthamcotta lake. The entire amount released as central share has been revalidated for the current financial year.

(c) & (d) Sasthamkotta freshwater lake spanning an area of 373 ha is located in Kunnathur Taluk of Kollam District of Kerala. The lake is the principal source of water for nearly 0.5 million people living in Kollam City and its suburbs. Sasthamkotta has a direct drainage basin of 625 ha. Surface run-off from rainfall within this drainage basin, as well direct rainfall on the lake bed constitutes the major sources of inflow. Water from Sasthamkotta is withdrawn by the Kerala Water Authority for drinking water supply to Kollam City and its suburbs. Evaporation from the lake bed also constitutes a significant proportion of water outflow. Present withdrawal of water from Sasthamkotta for Quilon Water Supply Scheme (WSS) is around 30 million litres per day (equivalent to 10.95 Mm<sup>3</sup>). An additional 33.5 MLD (equivalent to 12.22 Mm<sup>3</sup>) is withdrawn for meeting the water requirements of 4 water supply schemes (WSS for Chavara – Panmana, WSS for Sasthamkotta, Soorand (S) and West Kallada; and WSS for Thevalakkara-Thekkumbhagam).

(e) An Integrated Management Plan for conservation and management of Sasthamkotta lake in Kerala at a total cost of Rs. 98.63 crore for a period of five years was received during financial year 2017-18 from the Government of Kerala, which included various activities like institutional development, catchment conservation, water management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. The Management Plan has been budgeted on the principle of convergence through various development schemes like Integrated Watershed Development Programme, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Suchitwa Mission, which can support specific activities. About 74% of the budget has been estimated through convergence from these schemes and remaining 26% under the “National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)” scheme of the Ministry.

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