

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4175
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

Mangrove Plantations

4175. SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:
PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry towards the Conservation of the wetlands in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study/studies regarding the impact assessment of climate change on wetlands and other such eco-sensitive areas in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has established any policy for mangrove plantations along the coastline if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has been able to achieve its aims and objective of the policy, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the area converted under the Mangrove plantation in the country; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the area of mangrove plantations and conservation Mangroves the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands across country to conserve, manage and maintain the ecological character of the wetlands without restricting the wise use.

Further, MoEF&CC is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of identified wetlands (includes lakes) 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, in-situ cleaning i.e., desilting & de-

weeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

The Ministry had undertaken 'Wetlands Rejuvenation' programme within the framework of 169 transformative ideas of Government of India i.e. "Start work on Restoration & Rejuvenation of at least 100 major wetlands across the country". In the first cycle of the programme, 130 wetlands were selected in consultation with State Governments for which collection of baseline information and rapid assessment of wetlands condition was done during the 100 days implementation period. Based on the above list, 32 wetlands were identified and concerned States/UTs advised to take necessary action for their rejuvenation and restoration.

Ministry has launched Mission Sahbhagita, on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which is an important step towards participatory conservation and wise use of wetlands to enable a society ownership approach with communities leading at the forefront. The Ministry has also launched 'Save Wetlands Campaign' as part of this Mission on 04.02.2023 at Goa on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2023.

- (b) As per available information, MoEF&CC has not undertaken any such scientific study for assessment of climate change on wetlands.
- (c) to (f) The Ministry established National Coastal Mission Programme (NCM) for Conservation and Management of Mangroves with the objectives of their protection, sustenance, conservation and augmentation in the country through regulatory and promotional measures. Activities related to conservation and management of coastal ecosystems such as mangrove plantation, shelterbelt plantation, coral transplantation, enhancement of livelihood security of coastal communities, pollution abatement in coastal areas and capacity building are undertaken.

Central Government provides financial assistance to coastal States/Union Territories (UTs) on cost sharing basis under Central Sponsored Scheme which is implemented in nine coastal states and four UT involving 38 mangrove sites. Under this programme annual Management Action Plan (MAP) for conservation and management of mangroves are formulated and implemented in the all coastal states and UTs.

As per the India State Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the mangrove cover in the country has been estimated as 4992 sq km with net increment of 17 sq.km in the year 2021 as compared to the mangrove cover assessed in year 2019.
