

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4265**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

**Management and Conservation of Wetlands**

4265. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

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

- (a) whether the Government has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 for management and conservation of wetlands in the country; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that nearly two of every five wetlands in the country have lost their natural existence;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also a fact the urbanization and waste disposal and lack of knowledge are the main reasons for depleting wetlands in the country; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to save wetlands in the country for the safety of environment in 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.
- (b) to (e) Such scientific data pertaining to loss of natural existence of wetlands is not available on records. While the Central and State Governments take all possible steps for the restoration, conservation and preservation of wetlands, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures including urbanization and waste disposal do affect water bodies.

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.

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