

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5073
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

Assessment of the Wetlands

5073. SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:
SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government has been conducting any assessment of areas classified as wetlands in the country, if so, the total area declared as wetlands in the country, State-wise including Odisha;
- (b) the total area classified as Ramsar sites in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has any holistic and standardized protocol for monitoring the ecological condition of wetlands across the country;
- (d) the details of degraded wetland across the country and whether the Government has taken any steps towards restoration of degraded wetland;
- (e) whether the Government has any specific fund towards conservation of wetlands, if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there has been a reduction in the area of existing wetlands; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to protect and conserve the wetland in the country, including in the State of Odisha?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per the "National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas, 2017 published by Space Applications Centre- ISRO Ahmedabad, a total of 2,31,195 wetlands (at 1:50000 scales and area ≥ 2.25 ha) have been mapped in the Country. The total wetland area estimated is 15.98 million hectare (mha) including rivers and excluding paddy field areas that is around 4.86% of the geographic area of the country. The State/UT-wise wetland distribution including Odisha is at **Annexure-1**.

(b) India has designated 75 Wetlands of International Importance as Ramsar sites covering an area of 1.33 million ha across the country.

(c) As per the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, the National Wetlands Committee (NWC) at national level and State Wetlands Authorities (SWAs)/ Union Territory Wetlands Authorities at state/ UT level have been constituted. The SWAs are responsible for effective conservation, management and monitoring of ecological condition of wetlands within their jurisdiction. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has published comprehensive guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. The above-said guidelines recommend the management of each notified wetland to be guided by an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) which *inter-alia* describes monitoring requirements for detecting changes in ecological character and for measuring the effectiveness of management.

(d) to (g) Scientific details regarding the degraded wetlands across the country are not available, however, as per the 'National Decadal Wetlands Change Atlas,' released by MoEF&CC in February 2022, as an outcome of 'National Wetland Inventory and Assessment – 2nd Cycle' project of the Space Application Center, the number and extent of wetlands having area equal to or greater than 2.25 ha has increased by 18,810 and 0.64 million ha respectively during the assessment period 2006-07 to 2017-18.

Ministry has taken several steps for conservation and management of wetlands across the country. 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 implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, NPCA for conservation and management of identified wetlands (includes lakes) in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments including Odisha. 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. So far, MoEF&CC has sanctioned proposals for conservation of 165 wetlands across the country, including 42 Ramsar sites and released an amount of about Rs. 1088.852 Crores as central share. This amount includes central share of Rs. 37.08418 crores released so far to Government of Odisha for conservation and management of Chilika lake (Rs. 28.33288 cr.), Ansupa (Rs. 6.44468 cr.), Kanjia (Rs. 0.9563 cr.), Dahi (Rs. 0.506 cr.) and Kuanria (Rs. 0.84432 cr.) in Odisha.

The Ministry had also 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 health status, 32 wetlands were identified and concerned States/UTs were 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.

Annexure-1

Annexure-1 referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 5073 to be answered on 3rd April, 2023 on 'Assessment of the Wetlands'

State-wise wetland distribution in India

Decadal wetland inventory in different States				
S. No.	State Name	2017-18		
		Number	Area (ha)	Area (% of wetland)
1	Andhra Pradesh	24104	1141606	7.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1182	151104	0.95
3	Assam	5902	849078	5.31
4	Bihar	4526	374766	2.34
5	Chhattisgarh	11457	342443	2.14
6	Goa	742	24749	0.15
7	Gujarat	17613	3499429	21.9
8	Haryana	1905	33649	0.21
9	Himachal Pradesh	215	94011	0.59
10	Jharkhand	2635	187045	1.17
11	Karnataka	14936	787127	4.93
12	Kerala	1399	158336	0.99
13	Madhya Pradesh	13947	861736	5.39
14	Maharashtra	25935	1152625	7.21
15	Manipur	132	67408	0.42
16	Meghalaya	225	31002	0.19
17	Mizoram	127	19476	0.12
18	Nagaland	148	21118	0.13
19	Odisha	13331	719942	4.5
20	Punjab	1190	47024	0.29
21	Rajasthan	13321	778824	4.87
22	Sikkim	259	7049	0.04
23	Tamil Nadu	26883	925712	5.79
24	Telangana	12338	566680	3.55
25	Tripura	416	18438	0.12
26	Uttar Pradesh	18555	1104562	6.91
27	Uttarakhand	172	112882	0.71
28	West Bengal	12955	1130127	7.07
29	Andaman&Nicobar	2774	143238	0.9

30	Chandigarh	11	336	0
31	Dadra NagarHaveli	12	2063	0.01
32	Daman and Diu	59	2728	0.02
33	Delhi	123	2773	0.02
34	Jammu & Kashmir	404	164110	1.03
35	Lakshadweep	50	79716	0.5
36	Ladakh	1073	373049	2.33
37	Puducherry	139	5555	0.03
	Total	231195	15981516	100