

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 19
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

Rejuvenation of Lakes

*19 SHRI P.C. MOHAN:

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

- (a) the total number of lakes in Bengaluru, their current status and ecological health and any ongoing conservation or restoration efforts made by the Government;
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to address the challenges faced by the lakes in Bengaluru, such as pollution, encroachment and biodiversity loss; and
- (c) the details of specific initiatives or projects aimed at rejuvenating and preserving the lakes in Bengaluru, along with the budget allocated for these projects?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 19 to be answered on Monday, the 4th December, 2023 on 'Rejuvenation of Lakes' raised by Shri P.C. Mohan.

(a) & (b) As per the information provided by the State Government of Karnataka, there are a total of 204 lakes under the control of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), out of which 114 lakes are developed and 38 lakes have been taken up for development. Further, 33 lakes are undeveloped and 19 lakes are disused lakes. Along with annual maintenance of the lakes, security staff has also been deployed to avoid encroachment, to control dumping of garbage and building wastes within the lake area. Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are established at some of the lakes and the treated water is discharged into the lakes. Sewage diversion drains are constructed in most of the developed lakes to prevent the entry of sewage into the lakes. Sedimentation ponds are constructed to prevent entry of silt into the main water body. Artificial islands and green pathways have been constructed in some lakes to increase their biodiversity.

Further, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the 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 the country to conserve, manage and maintain the ecological character of the wetlands without restricting the wise use. The said Rules inter-alia restrict the activities, like solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements.

(c) MoEF&CC is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands in the country including Karnataka, 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 & dewatering, 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.

Based on the proposals received from the State Government of Karnataka, this Ministry had sanctioned projects at a total cost of ₹ 24.27 crores during 2002-2010 for conservation of eight wetlands in Bengaluru, namely Vengaihkere, Nagvara, Jarganahalli, Lal Bagh, Bellandur, Gowramma, Homballama & Magadhi and central share of ₹ 13.794 crores was released to Government of Karnataka for conservation and management of these wetlands. All these projects have been completed.

Further, as per the information provided by Govt. of Karnataka, 47 lakes under Nava Nagarothana 2018-19, 5 lakes under Subhra Bengaluru Solid Waste Management (SWM) Grants, 8 lakes under 15th Finance Grants and 71 lakes under Amrutha Nagarothana 2022-23 have been developed/taken up for development with a cumulative grant/fund of approx. Rs. 590 crores.
