

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*388
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020

Conservation of Wetlands

*388. SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

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

- (a) the criteria/guidelines laid down for declaration/identification of wetlands in the country along with the details of such wetlands identified, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether ten more wetlands have recently been recognized under the Ramsar Convention and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is implementing National Wetlands Conservation Programme, if so, the details of funds allocated under the programme during the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules with the aim of prohibiting activities in wetlands and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether wetlands have been impacted due to rapid urbanization, developmental activities and other anthropogenic pressures and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps being taken by the Government for conservation of wetlands in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *388 to be answered on Friday, the 20th March, 2020 on 'Conservation of Wetlands' raised by Shri Bhola Singh and Dr. Sukanta Majumdar.

(a) India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and uses the definition of Ramsar Convention which states that 'Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters' for identifying wetlands. Using this definition, Space Application Centre has prepared National Wetland Atlas identifying wetlands covering an area of **15.26** million hectare across the country. The Atlas is available in public domain. The State/UT-wise wetland distribution of India is at **Annexure-I**.

(b) Based on the criteria prescribed by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 10 more Ramsar sites were designated in the FY 2019-2020 taking the total number of Ramsar sites in the country to 37. The newly designated sites are Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary, Saman Bird Sanctuary, Samaspur Bird Sanctuary, Sandi Bird Sanctuary and Sarsai Nawar Jheel from Uttar Pradesh, Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary, Beas Conservation Reserve and Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve from Punjab and Nandur Madhameshwar from Maharashtra. Details of these sites are at **Annexure-II**.

(c) This Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA)'. The scheme aims at holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands including lakes for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystem through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach and a common regulatory framework.

Under the scheme of NPCA, financial support is provided on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments for various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. de-silting & 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 details of funds released during last three years are **Annexure-III**.

(d) For conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the Central Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. The purpose of the Rules is to promote 'wise use' of Wetlands so as to ensure sustainable development of the wetland ecosystem. In this context, certain activities that have potential adverse impact on wetland are prohibited or regulated.

(e) & (f) The wetlands across the country have reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, various developmental activities, pollution problems and other anthropogenic

pressures. Ministry has recently initiated a target oriented action programme for rejuvenation and restoration of wetlands across the country. Under this programme, 130 wetlands were taken up in consultation with State Governments/UTs. A four pronged strategy was adopted and the nodal officers and managers of these wetlands have been trained for working out the threats and health of the wetlands. Analysis of the entire exercise has been shared with the State Governments/ UTs and they have been guided to prepare focused management plans based on the threats and health of the wetland.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Q. No. *388 to be answered on Friday, the 20th March, 2020 on 'Conservation of Wetlands'

State-wise wetland distribution in India

State Code	State/ Union Territory	Geographic area (sq.km)	Wetland area (ha)	% of state geographic area
1	Jammu & Kashmir	222111	391501	1.76
2	Himachal Pradesh	55673	98496	1.77
3	Punjab	50362	86283	1.71
4	Chandigarh	114	350	3.07
5	Uttarakhand	53566	103882	1.94
6	Haryana	49663	42478	0.86
7	Delhi	2966	2771	0.93
8	Rajasthan	342269	782314	2.29
9	Uttar Pradesh	240928	1242530	5.16
10	Bihar	91689	403209	4.40
11	Sikkim	7096	7477	1.05
12	Arunachal Pradesh	87658	155728	1.78
13	Nagaland	16521	21544	1.30
14	Manipur	22327	63616	2.85
15	Mizoram	21087	13988	0.66
16	Tripura	11040	17542	1.59
17	Meghalaya	22420	29987	1.34
18	Assam	78438	764372	9.74
19	West Bengal	88805	1107907	12.48
20	Jharkhand	79714	170051	2.13
21	Orissa	153845	690904	4.49
22	Chhattisgarh	135194	337966	2.50
23	Madhya Pradesh	308414	818166	2.65
24	Gujarat	197841	3474950	17.56
25	Daman & Diu	112	2068	18.46
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	487	2070	4.25
27	Maharashtra	307748	1014522	3.30
28	Andhra Pradesh	275045	1447133	5.26
29	Karnataka	191791	643576	3.36
30	Goa	3702	21337	5.76
31	Lakshadweep	828	79586	96.12
32	Kerala	38863	160590	4.13
33	Tamil Nadu	130409	902534	6.92
34	Puducherry	492	6335	12.88
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8249	152809	18.52
	Total	3297467 (~329.74mha)	15260572 (~15.26mha)	4.63

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Q. No. *388 to be answered on Friday, the 20th March, 2020 on ‘Conservation of Wetlands’

List of New Ramsar Sites in India

S. No	Name of Ramsar site	State	Area in hectares	Date of designation
1.	Nandur Madhameshwar	Maharashtra	1,437	21/06/2019
2.	Beas Conservation Reserve	Punjab	6,429	26/09/2019
3.	Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve	Punjab	344	26/09/2019
4.	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	Punjab	116	26/09/2019
5.	Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	225	19/09/2019
6.	Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	722	02/12/2019
7.	Saman Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	526	02/12/2019
8.	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	799	03/10/2019
9.	Sandi Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh	309	26/09/2019
10.	Sarsai Nawar Jheel	Uttar Pradesh	161	19/09/2019

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Q. No. *388 to be answered on Friday, the 20th March, 2020 on ‘Conservation of Wetlands’

Details of funds released to the State Governments/Union Territories during last three years and current financial year for conservation and management of wetlands under NPCA scheme.

(Amount in Rs crore)

S. No.	State	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	1.21
1	Bihar	-	3.60724	6.5965	0.79
2	Gujarat	-	-	-	1.52
3	Haryana	0.652	0.1320	1.4264	0.49
4	H.P.	0.870	0.98989	-	0.12
5	Jammu & Kashmir	-	23.8201	0.86565	1.68
6	Karnataka	2.28	-	-	-
7	Kerala	-	2.07075	-	-
8	Madhya Pradesh	12.00	0.9240	4.24669	8.41
9	Manipur	1.031	0.9280	3.852	-
10.	Mizoram	0.585	0.9846	1.2153	1.92
11.	Maharashtra	-	8.74397	4.91942	3.89
12.	Nagaland	0.42	-	10	5.62
13.	Odisha	0.399	6.1846	5.8072	4.10
14.	Puducherry	0.10	0.30	0.5	0.50
15.	Punjab	-	-	-	-
16.	Rajasthan	13.56	1.54	-	-
17.	Sikkim	0.714	1.8374	3.11818	2.60
18.	Tamil Nadu	-	1.05795	1.200884	1.37
19.	Tripura	-	-	-	3.13
19.	Uttar Pradesh	26.172	2.50	18.680276	2.93
20.	West Bengal	1.013	-	0.9965	4.29
	Total	59.796	55.6205	63.425	44.57
	R&D + Workshop	0.195825	0.342	0.5313106	0.94
	G. Total	59.9918	55.9625	63.9563	45.51