

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2998
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2021

Conservation of Son Beel

2998. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that during winter season Son Beel becomes hilly farm land for rice cultivation and is a sanctuary for migratory birds while from March onwards it becomes a natural lake having soil and water fit for natural fish breeding and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware about the killings of migratory birds for food in Son Beel lake, the largest natural fishery of Asia;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has planned for development and conservation of the Son Beel lake; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The water bound area of Son beel is around 2023.428 ha in non-forest Govt. land surrounded by patta and private lands. As per revenue records, Son beel is surrounded by 100 nos. of villages and more than 50,000 populations is directly dependent on the Son beel for their livelihood by way of fishing and paddy cultivation.
- (b)& (c) As informed by the State Government of Assam, no report regarding killings of migratory birds has been received so far.
- (d)& (e) Yes. The State Govt. of Assam has identified Son beel as a significant wetland for conservation and management. As reported by the State Government of Assam, Fishery Department and Assam Tourism Development Corporation have taken some developmental works in the Son Beel.

However, till date, no proposal has been received by Government of India from the State Government of Assam asking funds for conservation, restoration, rejuvenation and management of Son beel under National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NPCA) scheme.
