

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.161
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

Ramsar Sites

161. SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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

- (a) the details of Ramsar Sites, declared as such, under the United Nations Convention on Wetlands, State- wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the vast wetlands stretch of Pallikaranai Marsh in Chennai which is a fully qualified wetland expanding over several hundred squarekilometres area, has not been declared a Ramsar Site;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action beingtaken by the Union Government to include Pallikaranai Marsh wetlands under the scope of Ramsar Convention;and
- (d) pending its declaration as Ramsar Site, the plans for protecting the Pallikaranai wetlands from degradation?

ANSWER

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

(a) So far, 46 Ramsar Sites have been designated in the Country. The State-wise details of these Ramsar Sites are **annexed**.

(b) to (d) As per protocol, Ramsar Secretariat declares wetlands as Ramsar Sites after receipt of proposals from the Country's designated Administrative Authority. The proposal for declaring Pallikaranai Marshland as "Ramsar Site" has been received by this Ministry from the State Government vide letter dated 20.11.2021. The same has been submitted for approval of competent authority.

Under the scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA), an amount of Rs. 2.78 Crores has already been released as central share to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for the conservation and management of Pallikaranai Wetland.

Further, as per the information received from the State Government, the following steps have been taken by them for protecting the Pallikaranai Wetland from degradation:

- A separate conservation authority namely, “Conservation Authority of Pallikaranai Marshland (CAPML)” has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change & Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Weekly meetings are also convened by the Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority for issuance of draft notification for 32 ‘Natural wetlands’ located in and around the Pallikaranai Marshland under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- 24X7 Monitoring of Pallikaranai Marshland through regular patrolling and field inspections.
- Advisory has been issued to the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation to relocate the existing dump yards - Alandur dump yard and Perungudi Dump yard from Pallikaranai Marsh to any other suitable location.
- The Additional Chief Secretary, Municipal administration & Water Supply, Chennai has been advised for identification of the source of municipal solid wastes; sewage inlets points, etc., draining into Pallikaranai Marsh and to take suitable action for arresting the disposal of Municipal wastes, sewage, treated/ untreated effluents into the Pallikaranai Marsh.
- The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has been advised to take samples from all the inlet channels and to report on health status of the Pallikaranai Marsh.
- The District Collector, Chennai District and the District Collector, Chengalpattu District were issued instructions for survey of encroachments, unauthorized settlements in Pallikaranai Marsh area.
- The Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai; the Commissioner, Land Administration, Chepauk, Chennai have been instructed to identify and cancel the pattas that have been obtained illegally during the past.

Annexure

Details of Ramsar Sites in the Country, State – wise (as on 23.11.2021)

S. No.	State/UT	S. No.	Wetland	Date of Designation
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	Kolleru Lake	19-08-2002
2	Assam	2	Deepor Beel	19-08-2002
3	Bihar	3	Kabartal Wetland	21-07-2020
4	Gujarat	4	Nal sarovar	24-09-2012
		5	Wadhvana Wetland	05-04-2021
		6	Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	05-04-2021
5	Haryana	7	Sultanpur National Park	25-05-2021
		8	Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	25-05-2021
6	Himachal Pradesh	9	Chandertal Wetland	08-11-2005
		10	Pong Dam Lake	19-08-2002
		11	Renuka Wetland	08-11-2005
7	Jammu and Kashmir	12	Hokera Wetland	08-11-2005
		13	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	08-11-2005
		14	Wular Lake	23-03-1990
8	Kerala	15	Asthamudi Wetland	19-08-2002
		16	Sasthamkotta Lake	19-08-2002
		17	Vembanad Kol Wetland	19-08-2002
9	Ladakh	18	Tso Kar Wetland Complex	17-11-2020
		19	Tsomoriri Lake	19-08-2002
10	Madhya Pradesh	20	Bhoj Wetlands	19-08-2002
11	Maharashtra	21	Lonar Lake	22-07-2020
		22	Nandur Madhameshwar	21-06-2019
12	Manipur	23	Loktak Lake	23-03-1990
13	Odisha	24	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	19-08-2002
		25	Chilka Lake	01-10-1981
14	Punjab	26	Beas Conservation Reserve	26-09-2019
		27	Harike Lake	23-03-1990
		28	Kanjli Lake	22-01-2002
		29	Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve	26-09-2019
		30	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	26-09-2019
		31	Ropar Lake	22-01-2002
15	Rajasthan	32	Keoladeo Ghana National Park	1-10-1981
		33	Sambhar Lake	23-03-1990
16	Tamil Nadu	34	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	19-08-2002

17	Tripura	35	Rudrasagar Lake	08-11-2005
18	UttarPradesh	36	Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	19-09-2019
		37	Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	02-12-2019
		38	Saman Bird Sanctuary	02-12-2019
		39	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	03-10-2019
		40	Sandi Bird Sanctuary	26-09-2019
		41	Sarsai Nawar Jheel	19-09-2019
		42	Sur Sarovar	21-08-2020
		43	Upper Ganga River	08-11-2005
19	Uttarakhand	44	Asan Conservation Reserve	21-07-2020
20	WestBengal	45	East Calcutta Wetlands	19-08-2002
		46	Sunderbans Wetland	30-01-2019
20 States & UTs		46RamsarSites		