

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3553
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

Munroe Thuruthu Wetland

3553. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any initiative to address the issues pertaining to Munroe Thuruthu wetland ecosystem in Kollam district of Kerala State and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study by any agencies to ascertain the quality and properties of said wetland;
- (c) whether the Government has further allocated or disbursed any targeted funds for the protection, restoration and rejuvenation of Munroe Thuruthu wetland ecosystem and if so, the details thereof including the allocations made during the last three years and current year
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the area of Munroe Thuruthu has started to submerge at certain locations and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (c) Based on the information received from Government of Kerala, an amount of Rs.74.8 Lakh has been released by the State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK) for a project on 'Rejuvenating and Ensuring the Sustainability of Munroe thuruth' formulated by Munroe thuruth Grama Panchayat. This project is part of Integrated Management Action Plan (MAP) prepared for Ashtamudi Ramsar Wetland. The project includes following activities:
 1. Agriculture - Cutting and removal of disease affected, old and senile coconut palms of high tide damaged areas, Replanting of new coconut palms (high yielding and site-suitable varieties only) -assistance, Integrated Management of Coconut palms (Organic matter/Silt deposition in the garden land), Vegetable Cultivation in Pots.
 2. Fisheries - Strengthening of shrimp farms in selected areas of the Island in 2 Ha, Mangrove afforestation in a selected stretch of 3 km
 3. Animal Husbandry - Duck rearing units.

4. Suchitwa Mission - Construction of sanitary toilets, Plastic Bin/Bucket compost.
 5. Baseline documentation of the Project of all component activities
- (b) SWAK is conducting continuous water Quality Monitoring once in 3 months in Ashtamudi Lake through CWRDM as part of the Wetland Inventory Assessment and Monitoring System (WIAMS). There are 39 monitoring stations that include 5 stations of Ashtamudi in Munroe thuruthu Grama Panchayath.
- (d) Yes, Sir. A four-member expert team from DoECC including the Director, Environment conducted a field investigation and submitted the report on 25th November 2016. Kerala State Council for Science Technology & Environment (KSCSTE) also constituted a four member Expert Committee in 2015. Another study entitled “Vulnerability Assessment of Munroe Island” was conducted by National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai under MoEF&CC in May 2015.

All these studies or reports including the Village Disaster Management Plan Document of Munroe thuruthu Grama Panchayath prepared by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) confirms the problem of sinking of some low lying parts of the island and the reasons identified are the degradation of underlying organic matter and the lack of supply of silt from Kallada River. The project ‘Rejuvenating and Ensuring the Sustainability of Munroe thuruth’ is based on the threats to island community in the form of low lying land inundation and the danger of becoming climate refugees.
