

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1097
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

Amrit Dharohar Initiative

1097. SMT. DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI:

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

- (a) the specific objectives and key components of the Amrit Dharohar Initiative including the expected environmental and socio-economic outcomes;
- (b) the details of the progress and milestones achieved under the Amrit Dharohar Initiative since its inception particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the impact of the Amrit Dharohar Initiative on wetland conservation and management and whether any study has been done in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by the Government to involve local communities and stakeholders in the implementation and success of the said Initiative?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) Amrit Dharohar Initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India was launched in 2023 to promote unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites. The key components are Species and Habitat Conservation, Nature Tourism, Wetlands Livelihoods and Wetlands Carbon Assessment. The expected outcomes of Amrit Dharohar include protecting and promoting unique conservation and cultural heritage values, creating nature tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities, encouraging optimal use while ensuring maintenance of wetland ecological character, safeguarding and enhancing biological diversity and carbon stock.

(b) to (d) The details of the progress made under the Amrit Dharohar Initiative including in the State of Andhra Pradesh, studies done under the key components and involvement of the local communities and stakeholders are as follows:

- (i) **Species and Habitat Conservation:** Studies conducted for inventorization of flora and fauna of 75 Ramsar Sites by Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India respectively. People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) for Ramsar Sites have been developed/updated. For Kolleru Lake, a Ramsar Site in Andhra Pradesh, 73 PBRs have been developed/updated. To ensure effective monitoring of the management plans, guidelines for Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for Indian Wetlands were published and, METT Assessments for 22 Ramsar Sites has been done, so far. Ten educational videos on wetlands were developed for different levels of school students,

in collaboration with Central Institute of Educational Technology, National Council of Educational Research and Training. An implementation framework for the wise use of wetlands was released.

- (ii) **Nature Tourism & Wetlands Livelihoods:** MoEF&CC collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism for studying the matter and development of curriculum for training programs on nature tourism and wetlands livelihoods. Trainings on Alternate Livelihood Programme and Paryavaran Naavik Certification were conducted for 196 local community members from five Ramsar Sites. Further, a training module for Nature Guides was developed under the Green Skill Development Programme of MoEF&CC.
- (iii) **Wetlands Carbon Assessment:** ‘Standard Operating Procedure for Assessment of Carbon Stock in Wetlands’ was released, which has been utilised to assess the Carbon-stock of 39 Ramsar Sites, including *Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh*.
