

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3809
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

Steps to check Encroachments in Wetland

3809. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to curb encroachment and pollution in natural wetlands across the country;
- (b) the details of measures taken by the Government to integrate wetland conservation into urban planning and infrastructure development policies;
- (c) the total area of natural wetlands lost across the country during the last four decades, State-wise;
- (d) the number of Ramsar sites in the country which have recorded a decline in wetland area along with the details of area decreased;
- (e) the percentage of the lost wetlands that have been restored under the Government initiatives; and
- (f) the details of budget allocation for wetland conservation under the Ministry for the last five years along with the details of fund utilized?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) MoEF&CC is currently implementing the 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA)' scheme for conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, in-situ cleaning i.e., desilting & dewatering, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

For more effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country, MoEF&CC in consultation with the stakeholders, had notified the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010. The said Rules inter-alia, prohibit conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind, solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements.

As per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, prior Environmental Clearance (EC) before the start of the project is required for

all new/expansion Projects and/or activities as listed in the Schedule to this Notification, to be undertaken in any part of the country. The prior assessment of environmental impact and risk assessment including wetlands conservation as well as factoring the outcome of such analysis in the design and implementation of infrastructure projects is the very basis of grant of EC for such projects. The process of prior EC involves rigorous examination at different stages such as screening, scoping, public consultation, appraisal, stipulation of conditions in the EC and their compliance & monitoring.

The GIS-based Decision Support System (DSS) integrated in workflow on Pro-Active and Responsive Facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single - Window Hub (PARIVESH) serves as a comprehensive technological solution designed to facilitate the evaluation of project site (proximity) in order to aid in informed decision-making and recommendation of environmental safeguards for sustainable development. The system features multi-layered geographical layers in relation to environmentally critical regions like wetlands and internationally recognized Ramsar sites, which are vital for biodiversity conservation and hydrological regulation.

Further, the Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2015 published by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs inter-alia, contains the importance of wetlands and the steps for conserving wetlands in the Integrated Development Plans. Further, the water bodies (wetlands) are included in the urban land use/land cover i.e. layer wise geo-spatial data content with class & sub-class, geometry, symbol etc. under the “Design & Standards for Formulation of GIS based Master Plan for AMRUT Cities”.

(c) to (e) As per the National Wetlands Atlas of 2021 prepared by Space Applications Centre, there is a net increase of 0.72 million hectare in the total area of wetlands across the country as compared to the 2011 Atlas. The State/UT wise data is **Annexed**. However, while the Central and State Governments take all possible steps for the conservation and management of wetlands, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do impact wetlands.

(f) Under the NPCA scheme, MoEF&CC has provided financial assistance of Rs. 144.35 crores as Central share to the concerned States/UTs from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24 for conservation and management of 58 wetlands across the country.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 3809 to be answered on Monday, the 24th March 2025 on 'Steps to check Encroachments in Wetland'

State/UT wise wetland area

Sr. No.	State/UT	Area of wetlands as per the National Wetlands Atlas of 2011 (ha)	Area of wetlands as per the National Wetlands Atlas of 2021 (ha)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1447133	1141606
2	Arunachal Pradesh	155728	151104
3	Assam	764372	849078
4	Bihar	403209	374766
5	Chhattisgarh	337966	342443
6	Goa	21337	24749
7	Gujarat	3474950	3499429
8	Haryana	42478	33649
9	Himachal Pradesh	98496	94011
10	Jharkhand	170051	187045
11	Karnataka	643576	787127
12	Kerala	160590	158336
13	Madhya Pradesh	818166	861736
14	Maharashtra	1014522	1152625
15	Manipur	63616	67408
16	Meghalaya	29987	31002
17	Mizoram	13988	19476
18	Nagaland	21544	21118
19	Odisha	690904	719942
20	Punjab	86283	47024
21	Rajasthan	782314	778824
22	Sikkim	7477	7049
23	Tamil Nadu	902534	925712
24	Telangana	NA	566680
25	Tripura	17542	18438
26	Uttar Pradesh	1242530	1104562
27	Uttarakhand	103882	112882
28	West Bengal	1107907	1130127
29	Andaman & Nicobar	152809	143238

30	Chandigarh	350	336
31	Dadra Nagar Haveli	2070	2063
32	Daman and Diu	2068	2728
33	Delhi	2771	2773
34	Jammu & Kashmir	391501	164110
35	Lakshadweep	79586	79716
36	Ladakh	NA	373049
37	Puducherry	6335	5555
	Total	15260572	15981516