

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Restoration of Pulicat Lake in Andhra Pradesh

122. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any detailed study on the environmental impact of recurring sandbar formation at the mouth of Pulicat Lake in the State of Andhra Pradesh and its adverse effects on the lake's ecology and local livelihoods and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a proposal for restoration was submitted over two years ago and if so, the current status thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for the delay in grounding the project despite the urgency and environmental importance of protecting Pulicat Lake, a critical brackish water ecosystem?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has conducted a detailed scientific study through the Salim Ali Centre for ornithology and Natural History (SACON) in 2019 to assess the environmental implications of recurring sandbar formation at the mouth of Pulicat Lake, particularly at the Rayadoruvu inlet in Vakadu Mandal. The study concluded that the frequent closure of the sea mouth due to sandbar accumulation adversely affects the ecological stability of Pulicat Lake by disrupting the natural exchange of sea and freshwater, leading to hyper salinity, reduced fish diversity and degradation of critical wetland habitats. These changes impact the livelihoods of local fishing communities dependent on the lake. Based on these findings, the report recommended scientifically planned dredging operations and long-term catchment area management to restore hydrological balance, enhance biodiversity, and ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities for the dependent communities.

(b) & (c) No proposal for restoration of Pulicat Lake has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

MoEF&CC is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. An Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for Pulicat Wetland Complex was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu at total cost of Rs. 355.00 lakhs for five year during March 2022. Since, the IMP was not submitted as per the guidelines of NPCA scheme,

the Government of Tamil Nadu was advised to submit the proposal as per the said guidelines along with all requisite documents. Further, the Ministry vide letter dated 17.04.2023 has advised all the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to submit the IMPs of Ramsar sites and other important wetlands as per the guidelines of NPCA.
