

Funds for repair and renovation of ponds

†2760. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of public ponds in the country in 1990, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the fact that several ponds in the country were filled and multi-story buildings and commercial centres were constructed upon them;
- (c) if so, whether Government would issue any guidelines to the State Governments for revival of these filled ponds and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the funds allocated by Central Government to the States for repair and restoration of ponds as well as creation of new ponds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation do not maintain the records of public ponds in the country.

(b) Many of water bodies have gone into disuse because of development of ground water irrigation systems, inadequate maintenance, encroachments and diversion of land for other purposes, etc.

(c) Ministry of Urban Development has issued an Advisory on conservation and restoration of water bodies in urban areas in August, 2013 wherein various steps have been suggested for water body conservation and restoration. In the Advisory, the States are advised to set up a "State Level Advisory Committee" for conservation and preservation of lakes/water bodies.

(d) For revival of publicly owned water bodies, a scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies for Twelfth Plan has been launched. It is envisaged to provide Central assistance for restoration of about 10,000 water bodies with an earmarked outlay of ₹ 6235 crore, to restore an irrigation potential of 6.235 lakh hectares. The Central assistance is provided in the form of grant, which is 90% of the project cost, in special category States (NE States, Himachal Pradesh, J and K, Uttarakhand and undivided KBK districts of Odisha), projects lying in drought prone, tribal, desert prone areas, as well as left wing extremism affected areas and 25% of the project cost in the case of non-special category States/areas.

No Central assistance is provided to the States for creation of new ponds under RRR.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.