

- (c) the details of various consultations which took place to arrive at this definition;
- (d) the details of areas which would be excluded from this new definition; and
- (e) how this definition is different from the definition drafted in the year 2014 after consultations with States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) In view of reply to part (a) above, reply to part (b) does not arise.

(c) In the year 2014 the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change formulated draft parameters for classification of an area as 'forest' for the purpose of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and circulated the same to States and Union Territories for comments. Based on comments received from the States and Union Territories and detailed consultations held in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, these draft parameters are being further refined. These parameters have not been finalised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change so far.

(d) to (e) As the process for finalization of draft parameters for classification of an area as 'forest' for the purpose of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 based on comments received from the States and Union territories has not been completed, so far, reply to parts (d) and (e) does not arise.

Conservation of wetlands

736. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of wetland in the country;
- (b) whether Government is aware of disappearance and the encroachment of these wetlands by unscrupulous elements;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken for protection, conservation and preservation of wetlands in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE) : (a) As per National Wetland

Atlas published by the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad in 2011, there are a total of 7,57,060 wetlands in the country occupying 15.26 million hectare area (around 4.63% of the geographic area of the country). These include lakes/ponds, ox-bow lakes, high altitude and riverine wetlands, waterlogged areas, rivers/streams, tanks, reservoirs, lagoons, creeks, sand beaches, corals, mangroves, mud flats, salt pans, aquaculture ponds, etc. Out of the total 7,57,060 wetlands, 5,55,557 wetlands have an area less than 2.25 hectare. State-wise distribution of wetland area in the country is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) A few wetlands in the country have reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, various developmental activities and other anthropogenic pressures.

For conservation and management of identified wetlands in the country, the scheme of National Wetlands Conservation Programme (NWCP) was implemented till the year 2012-13. To have better synergy and to avoid overlap, the NWCP has been merged in February, 2013 with another scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) into a new integrated scheme of 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems' (NPCA) for holistic conservation of lakes and wetlands, which is operational on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Under the scheme, financial assistance has been provided to the State Governments/ Union Territories for undertaking wetland conservation activities like survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, desilting & dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, bio-diversity conservation, pollution abatement, education and awareness and community participation etc. So far, since 1987-88 an amount of ₹ 146.94 crore has been released to the concerned State Governments/Union Territories for undertaking various conservation activities in 82 identified wetlands under NWCP/NPCA, including ₹ 8.29 crore released in 2015-16. Further, to regulate certain activities within the designated wetlands, the Government of India has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in December, 2010.

In order to conserve wetlands and lakes in an integrated manner, all the States/ Union Territories have been advised for giving high priority for constitution of State wetlands/lake authorities, identification and notification of priority wetlands including delineation of their boundaries, development of integrated management plans, securing resources for implementation of management plans, monitoring and evaluation strengthening research-management interface etc.

Statement*State-wise wetland distribution in India*

Sl No.	State/Union Territory	Wetland area (ha)
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	391501
2.	Himachal Pradesh	98496
3.	Punjab	86283
4.	Chandigarh	350
5.	Uttarakhand	103882
6.	Haryana	42478
7.	Delhi	2771
8.	Rajasthan	782314
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1242530
10.	Bihar	403209
11.	Sikkim	7477
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	155728
13.	Nagaland	21544
14.	Manipur	63616
15.	Mizoram	13988
16.	Tripura	17542
17.	Meghalaya	29987
18.	Assam	764372
19.	West Bengal	1107907
20.	Jharkhand	170051
21.	Odisha	690904
22.	Chhattisgarh	337966
23.	Madhya Pradesh	818166
24.	Gujarat	3474950
25.	Daman and Diu	2068
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2070

1	2	3
27.	Maharashtra	1014522
28.	Andhra Pradesh	1447133
29.	Karnataka	643576
30.	Goa	21337
31.	Lakshadweep	79586
32.	Kerala	160590
33.	Tamil Nadu	902534
34.	Puducherry	6335
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	152809
	TOTAL	15260572 (~15.26mha)

Population of tigers

737. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- the total population of tigers in the country;
- whether India subscribes to the goal of doubling the tiger population by 2020;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the initiative being taken by Government under Project Tiger programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE) : (a) The details of tiger population in the country for the years 2010 and 2014 are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. A resolution was made by all the tiger range countries during the St. Petersburg Summit on Tiger Conservation (2010) to double the number of wild tigers in the tiger range countries by 2022. India is also a party to the said resolution.

(d) Several milestone initiatives have been taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority for protection and conservation of tigers and other wild animals, and the same are given in the Statement-II.