Disappearance of lakes due to unregulated urbanisation

226. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of lakes across the country are either rapidly disappearing or their water becomes unfit for use due to unregulated urbanization;

(b) whether Government, in consultation with the State Governments, proposes to bring in a mechanism to revive lakes especially in big cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to revive lakes across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Rapid urbanization, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do stress water bodies.

(b) and (c) For conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, this Ministry is currently implementing a scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. So far, a Total of 46 projects for conservation of 63 lakes have been sanctioned in 14 States at a Total cost of ₹ 1096.09 crore for undertaking works like providing sewerage system and sewage treatment plants, interception and diversion of sewage, desilting, catchment area treatment, storm water management etc.

Revival of urban lakes

227. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that urban lakes across the country are rapidly vanishing or their water become unfit due to encroachment or any change of land use pattern by State Governments;

(b) whether the Central Government, in consultation with the State Government, proposes to bring in comprehensive mechanism to revive urban lakes across the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that as much as 85 per cent of Bengaluru city's water bodies are severely polluted and are in the lowest grade of quality; and