

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 32**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

**Conservation of lakes and ponds**

32. DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether number of lakes and ponds have declined substantially across the country during the last ten years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether Government has launched any scheme to save/conserves/revive such lakes and ponds across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has received any proposals from various State Governments to protect natural lakes and ponds located in their respective States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated by Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a)& (b) While the Central and State Governments take all possible steps for the restoration, conservation and preservation of lakes and wetlands, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do affect water bodies.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of identified wetlands (includes lakes) 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, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. desilting & dewatering, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, biofencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

Under the NPCA scheme, the central assistance is based on the proposals received from the State Governments, conformity with the guidelines and budget availability. Accordingly, so far, MoEF&CC has sanctioned projects for conservation of 160 wetlands in the country and released an amount of about Rs.1046.53 crore as central share.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), under Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), is a demand driven wage employment scheme with bottom up planning. The works are identified, approved & prioritized by the Gram Sabha at the Gram Panchayat level in each States/ UTs as per the provisions of the scheme. Accordingly, the action plan (shelf of work) of the permissible work is prepared & approved by the Gram Sabha and can be taken up as per the demand. There is no target fixed for any specific work from the Ministry, but are taken up as per the demand and priority of Gram Panchayat.

As per schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Act 2005, renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of irrigation tanks and other water bodies and conservation of old step well/baolis are permissible activities. A total of 20,946 nos. of works were taken up in the financial year 2021-22 for which expenditure incurred is Rs.167.97 Cr.

Further, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Ministry of Jal Shakti provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI), Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Schemes etc. under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).

Proposals received from State Governments for disbursement of funds from NPCA in the recent three years is given as below:

Sl. No.	State/UT	Funds allocated in Financial Year (Amount Rs. in Crores)		
		2018-19	2019-2020	2020-21
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1.21	-
3.	Assam	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	6.60	0.79	-
5.	Gujarat	-	1.52	-
6.	Haryana	1.43	0.49	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-	0.12	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.87	1.68	-
9.	Karnataka	-	-	-
10.	Kerala	-	-	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	4.25	8.41	7.00
12.	Maharashtra	4.92	3.89	8.10
13.	Manipur	3.85	-	7.92
14.	Mizoram	1.22	1.92	2.78
15.	Nagaland	10.00	5.62	0.50
16.	Odisha	5.81	4.10	5.38
17.	Punjab	-	-	-
18.	Rajasthan	-	-	-
19.	Sikkim	3.12	2.60	-
20.	Tamil Nadu	1.20	1.37	-

21.	Telengana	-	-	-
22.	Tripura	-	3.13	-
23.	Uttar Pradesh	18.68	2.93	0.95
24.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-
25.	West Bengal	1.00	4.29	-
26.	Puducherry ( UT)	0.50	0.50	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>63.43</b>	<b>44.57</b>	<b>32.63</b>

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