

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.39**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

**Conservation of wetlands**

39. DR. ANIL JAIN:

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

- (a) the salient features of National Programme for Conservation of Wetlands;
- (b) the details of land identified in the country as wetland during the last five year and current year till 30th June, 2021, year-wise and district-wise;
- (c) whether wetland health cards, formation of Wetland Mitras and focused management scheme have been included in Namami Gange Programme in various districts of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) whether there is any action plan to develop coastal wetlands of various rivers of the country including the river located around Firozabad district in Uttar Pradesh, as a tourism or pilgrimage destinations, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) The salient features of National Programme for Conservation of Wetlands of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) includes implementation of the following:

- **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA)** scheme for conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments i.e. 100% Central Share for Union Territories (UTs), 90% (Centre) &10% (North East& Himalayan States)and 60% (Centre) &40% (remaining States). The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. desilting &deweeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, Lake Beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

- As a signatory to the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** since 01.02.1982, India has designated 42 Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). India stands first in South Asia and third in Asia w.r.t the number of Ramsar Sites.
- **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017** - Vide these Rules, inter-alia, the State/UT Wetlands Authorities have been constituted. The National Wetlands Committee inter-alia is responsible for advising on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands. Guidelines have been issued to support the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations in the implementation of the Rules.
- Four pronged **Wetlands Rejuvenation Programme** by a) Developing baseline information; b) Rapid assessment of wetlands condition (Wetland Health Cards); c) Constitution of 'Wetlands Mitras' - stakeholder platforms to enable collaborative and participatory management; and d) Management planning, addressing the specific wetlands biodiversity and ecosystem services values and threats.
- **Capacity Building and Outreach programme** – National and Regional workshops for Wetlands Managers & Stakeholders are organised on conservation and management of wetlands, preparation of Brief Documents etc. World Wetlands Day is celebrated at National level on 2<sup>nd</sup> February of each year in collaboration with the concerned State Governments to raise awareness among all sections of the society about values and functions of wetlands and utilization of their resources.

(b) As per the National Wetland Inventory & Assessment, 2011, about two lakh wetlands are above 2.25 hectares with a total wetland area of about 14.70 million hectares. These include lakes/ponds, ox-bow lakes, high altitude & riverine wetlands, waterlogged areas, rivers/streams, tanks, reservoirs, lagoons, creeks, sand beaches, corals, mangroves, mud flats, salt pans, aquaculture ponds, etc. The district-wise wetland maps and statistics of each State/UT are available under Chapter 7 of respective Atlases of each State/UT, which are available on MoEF&CC website at <http://moef.gov.in/en/division/environment-divisions/wetland/national-wetlands-inventory-assessment/>. No subsequent inventorization exercise has been undertaken by the Ministry after 2011.

(c) Yes, Sir. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti is funding a project on 'Conservation and Sustainably Managing Gangetic Floodplain Wetlands of Uttar Pradesh (UP)' since June 2020. The major components of the project include Wetland Inventory & Assessment, Wetlands Management Planning, Wetland Monitoring and Capacity Building & Outreach including wetland health cards.

(d) As per information received from States/UTs, no action plan has been developed for coastal wetlands of various rivers of the country including the river located around Firozabad district in Uttar Pradesh, as a tourism or pilgrimage destinations.

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