

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 373
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

Wetland rejuvenation

373. SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that some wetlands in the country have been impacted due to rapid urbanization, various developmental activities, pollution problems and other anthropogenic pressures;
- (b) if so, the steps taken for restoration and rejuvenation of wetlands; and
- (c) the targets and achievements of the National Wetlands Conservation Programme for the conservation and management of identified wetlands in the country including Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b) While the Central and State Governments take all possible steps for the conservation and management of wetlands, developmental activities and anthropogenic activities sometimes impact wetlands.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules, inter-alia, prohibit conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind, solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements and any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these Rules. Further, vide these Rules, the State/UT Wetlands Authorities have been constituted which are responsible for conservation and management of wetlands.

MoEF&CC provides financial assistance to the States/Union Territories under the 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA)'. MoEF&CC is currently implementing the NPCA scheme for conservation and management of wetlands 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, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

(c) Under the NPCA scheme (and its predecessor schemes namely, National Wetlands Conservation Programme (NWCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP)), MoEF&CC has provided financial assistance of about Rs. 1140 crores as Central share to the States/UTs for 168 wetlands across the country. Out of these, 131 projects stand completed while works of 37 projects are under progress. Financial assistance was provided to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for conservation and management of Kolleru Lake during 1987 to 2010. So far, an amount of Rs. 249.569 lakhs has been released as central share for various conservation activities, which include eco-development activities, development of eco-tourism, sanctuary protection, sustainable resource development, livelihood improvement, public awareness and nature education. Thereafter, no grant has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh due to non-receipt of requisite proposal from the State.
