

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:64
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
WATER CONSERVATION
MALYALA RAJIAH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakes and ponds in the country are disappearing fast; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to improve water conservation by desilting all lakes and ponds and digging new lakes and ponds to conserve water going waste, especially during rainy seasons?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Most of the lakes and ponds are shrinking in size and subjected to various biotic pressures.

(b) Water being a State subject, all water resources projects including water conservation measures are planned, funded and implemented by the concerned State Government. Various State Governments have taken up steps to preserve traditional water sources such as ponds, lakes & rivers and for improvement/restoration of quality of water bodies in the country. Realising the importance of freshwater bodies for providing food, fodder, fuel and water for domestic, irrigation and industrial purposes, Government of India has taken up Wetland Conservation Programme in collaboration with State Governments to revive the lakes and ponds. 24 wetlands till date have been identified for conservation and management. The financial assistance is released to concerned State Government for supporting various activities like survey and demarcation, weed control, catchment area treatment, desiltation, conservation of biodiversity, pollution abatement, education awareness, community development, etc.

State Steering Committees have been set up in various States with Chief Secretary as chairman, having members from State Government Departments and also involving Non Governmental Organisations/academicians. 100% assistance is given to the State Governments for carrying out these activities. Apart from this, urban wetlands which are subjected to deterioration due to urbanization and other anthropogenic pressures, a separate programme –National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) has been initiated under which at the initial stage, 10 lakes have been identified.