

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:179
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
WETLAND CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
K. Shri Parasuraman

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

- (a) whether wetlands have been acquired in many States in the name of development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether many States are yet to implement the wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010;
- (d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government had prepared a list of wetlands with the help of World Wildlife Federation and other organizations; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) A few wetlands in the country have reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, various developmental activities, pollution problems and other anthropogenic pressures. The Central Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country. Under the Rules, 25 wetlands have been notified for regulation of certain activities within the wetlands. All the State Governments were advised to designate State nodal agencies and identify wetlands for notification in their States as per the Rules. However, no more wetlands have since been notified under the Wetlands Rules due to non-submission of proposals by the States / Union Territories.

(e) & (f) The Ministry has not prepared any list of wetlands with the help of World Wildlife Federation. However, at the behest of the Ministry, the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad has prepared the National Wetland Inventory Atlas mapping a total of 7,57,060 wetlands in the country. As per the Atlas, the total wetland area estimated is 15.26 million hectare, that is around 4.63% of the geographic area of the country. All the States have been advised to identify priority wetlands in their States as per this Atlas for notification under the Wetland Rules.