

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA
REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 37

ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

RESTORATION OF RIVERS

37. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has sanctioned any funds for the restoration of rivers and water bodies in Tamil Nadu during the last five years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance for the revival/restoration of marsh lands of Pallikaranai along with the lakes and ponds situated in Chennai South Parliamentary Constituency;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government and decision in this regard; and
- (d) the measures taken or to be taken/proposed by the Government to protect the Pallikaranai marshlands and water bodies from being encroached and devastated by the Government and private projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (d) Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers is an ongoing process. It is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Local Bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents before discharging into rivers and other water bodies, land or coastal waters for prevention and control of pollution therein.

This Ministry, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers, on cost sharing basis. Under NRCP all rivers of the country, excluding river Ganga and its tributaries are covered. Different pollution abatement projects which are admissible under NRCP include sewerage networks, interception and diversion works, sewage treatment plants (STPs), etc.

Proposals for pollution abatement works in towns along polluted river stretches are received from the States/UTs from time to time for consideration under the NRCP, and sanctioned based on their prioritization, conformity with guidelines, availability of Plan funds, etc.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement projects for the conservation of six rivers namely Cauvery, Adyar, Cooum, Vaigai, Vennar, and Tamrabarani were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 908.13 crore for 13 towns, namely Bhiwani, Chennai, Erode, Karur, Kumarapalayam, Kumbakonam, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Pallipalayam, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Trichirappalli and Trichi, and STPs with a total capacity of 477.66 million litre per day have been created in Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme, this Ministry has not sanctioned any fund to Govt. of Tamil Nadu during the last five years.

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is being implemented for conservation and management of wetlands/lake in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State/UT 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 & de-weeding, storm water management, bio-remediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, bio-diversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

During 2017-18 to 2021-22, total funds amounting to Rs 363.10 Lakh was released to Govt. of Tamil Nadu for conservation of wetlands including Pallikarni wetland. The details are given as below.

(Rs in Lakh)

S.No.	Name of wetland	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
1	KazuveliKaliveli	36.56	24.94	38.31	-	-	99.81
2	Point calimere	25.05	49.90	44.77	-	-	119.72
3	Pallaikarni	44.19	45.25	54.13	-	-	143.57
	Total	105.80	120.09	137.21	-	-	363.10

MoEF&CC notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017. The notification constituted, National Wetlands Committee (NWC) at Central level and Wetlands Authorities at State and UT to oversee protection, conservation and management of wetlands across the country. The notification also specifies the prohibited activities in the wetlands to safeguard the wetlands from encroachment, pollution, solid waste dumping, etc. Govt of India declared Pallikaranai wetland as Ramsar site, i.e., Wetland of International Importance under Ramsar convention for its protection, conservation and management.
