

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 317
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

Conservation and Management of Wetlands under Amrit Dharohar Programme

317. SHRI VISHWESHWAR HEGDE KAGERI:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI AVIMANYU SETHI:

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

- (a) the objectives and scope of the Amrit Dharohar initiative for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of wetlands across the country;
- (b) the progress made in identification, notification and management of wetlands under this initiative, including coordination with State Governments and local communities; and
- (c) the outcomes achieved in terms of biodiversity conservation, livelihood support and climate resilience through wetland-focused interventions?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Amrit Dharohar Initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India was launched in 2023 to promote the unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites. The key components are Species and Habitat Conservation, Nature Tourism, Wetlands Livelihoods and Wetlands Carbon Assessment. The expected outcomes of the initiative include the protection and promotion of unique conservation and cultural heritage values, creation of nature tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities, encouragement of optimal and wise use of wetlands, maintenance of their ecological character, and safeguarding and enhancing biological diversity and carbon stock.

(b) & (c) The details of the progress made under the Amrit Dharohar Initiative in the country, studies conducted under its key components and coordination with State Governments and local communities are as follows:

- (i) **Species and Habitat Conservation:** Studies for the inventory of flora and fauna of 75 Ramsar Sites have been conducted by the Botanical Survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India, respectively. People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) for Ramsar Sites have been developed or updated. To ensure effective monitoring of the management plans, guidelines for the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for Indian Wetlands were published and, METT Assessments have so far been completed for 65

Ramsar Sites. Ten educational videos on wetlands were also developed for different levels of school students, in collaboration with the Central Institute of Educational Technology, National Council of Educational Research and Training. An implementation framework for the wise use of wetlands was released. Video on Bird call of flagship species of Ramsar sites of India has also been released.

- (ii) **Nature Tourism & Wetlands Livelihoods:** MoEF&CC collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism to study the subject matter and develop curricula for training programmes on nature tourism and wetlands livelihoods. Trainings under the Alternate Livelihood Programme and Paryavaran Naavik Certification were conducted for 196 local community members from five Ramsar Sites. In addition, a training module for Nature Guides was developed under the Green Skill Development Programme of MoEF&CC.
- (iii) **Wetlands Carbon Assessment:** A ‘Standard Operating Procedure for Assessment of Carbon Stock in Wetlands’ was released, and has been utilised to assess the Carbon-stock of 39 Ramsar Sites across the country. Methodology for climate co-benefit assessment for wetlands has been developed. Considering the high carbon storage capacity of peatlands, a Technical Report on “Peatlands of India: An Overview and Future Roadmap” has been released.
