India has 2.4 million water bodies, most of which are in West Bengal, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam, the country’s first ever comprehensive census of water bodies has found. Over half of them are privately owned.

The census, conducted by the Union Jal Shakti ministry, also highlights the disparities between rural and urban areas. Of the total number of water bodies, 97 per cent (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9 per cent (69,485) in urban areas, stated the report, released Sunday.