

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to take steps to develop Bhitarkanika National Park for tourism in Kendrapara Parliamentary Constituency, Odisha.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (KENDRAPARA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is for the first time that I am participating in 'Zero Hour' in this Session and I thank you for providing me this opportunity.

Sir, as you are aware, Odisha houses the beautiful yet fragile ecosystem of Bhitarkanika National Park, which falls in my constituency of Kendrapara. The Park is home to rich and diverse variety of flora and fauna, including the Saltwater Crocodile, the Black Ibis, the Indian Python and a large number of Mangrove species, to name a few.

Bhitarkanika has a rich historical and cultural past. It has been a favoured hunting ground for erstwhile Kings, and many temples dot its lands. But the wealth of its wildlife is where it is the richest. This creates a unique opportunity for ecological and educational tourism in this region. Tourism can contribute heavily to a State's revenue, especially to a State such as Odisha, which is home to a diverse variety of destinations. Further, it is important for the Government to understand that India has many different regions with a host of different ancient cultures as well as areas of vast natural and ecological beauty.

I laud the Government for its efforts and plans to boost tourism in India and thank the hon. Finance Minister Madam Nirmala Sitharamanji for according tourism due importance in the current Union Budget. Other than tourism, the Budget for the year 2019-20 also has policies

which encourage energy conservation and sustainable development. All this leads us to the conclusion that 'green tourism' is the need of the hour and the biodiverse Bhitarkanika region provides us with such a unique opportunity. It comes across as a surprise that this beautiful region has not been identified by the Government and earmarked for development so that it meets its true potential.

So, I request the Government, through you, Sir, to take up special measures to develop the Bhitarkanika National Park so as to boost tourism, while maintaining and preserving its fragile ecological balance and identify and honour it as one of the Iconic Places in India.

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

श्री महेश साहू और

श्री रमेश चन्द्र माझी को श्री अनुभव मोहंती द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।

श्री रमापति राम त्रिपाठी । माननीय सदस्य श्री शरद त्रिपाठी के पिताजी हैं

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