

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title:Regarding increasing urbanisation and commercialisation around Kaziranga National Park.-laid

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): The Kaziranga National Park is suffering from over-exposure. The Kaziranga National Park received a tourist footfall of over 2.75 lakh generating a revenue of Rs. 6 crore during 2021-22. During 2020-21, it received 1,67,644 tourists with total revenue garnered being Rs. 3,60,00,611. The Kaziranga National Park has been suffering from over-exposure in recent years. Several resorts and lodges have come up over the past decade, the number rose to 70 by 2019 due to seasonal bursts in tourists.

Tea companies and private entities are cashing in on the activities in the Kaziranga National Park and on the need for conservation by encouraging high-end tourists to live in palatial planters' bungalows. Instead of the planters using guards and workers to look for poachers, they are called upon to address the larger conservation attempts at creating alternative livelihoods for people dependent on the parks. Hence, some of the bigger companies had created small showrooms that sell ethnic fabric and handicraft along the National Highway No. 37 that cut through the heart of the park. Increasing urbanization and commercialization trend in the area of rhino habitat is tremendous. Several private groups have also established camp sites adjacent to the park on the banks of Brahmaputra river.