

Title: Re: Environment protection and development of tourism in the Munroe Thuruth Island located in Kollam district.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Munroe Thuruth Island, a group of eight islets over an area of 13.4 sq.km., located in Kollam District, is a major tourist attraction besides being an agrarian zone. Munroe Thuruth island is now facing an existential threat due to a host of factors including ground subsidence, upward seepage of saline water during high tide events as well as flooding. These factors combined have decimated the coconut production, paddy cultivation and aquaculture, leading to a significant crisis affecting livelihood and the very survival of about 10,000 strong population, composed of small-scale farmers and labourers. The paddy cultivation, over the last two decades has drastically declined, resulting in a loss of about 200 hectares due to saltwater intrusion and flooding with several agencies predicting irreversible destruction of the island.

Due to the gravity of the issue, immediate steps in promulgating an environmental protection and livelihood preservation master plan for revitalizing Munroe Thuruth Island is needed. I request for compensation for residents of submerged houses, relocation of residents, immediately and also ensure a project for tourism development by utilising available resources.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri C. N. Annaduari ? not present.

Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav.