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Title: Need to drop the proposal for setting up a sanctuary in Kandhamal district of Orissa with a view to safeguard the interests of local tribal population.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (PHULBANI): A serious situation has arisen in Kandhamal district of Orissa, which is a major segment of Phulbani Parliamentary Constituency, following the decision of the Government to set up a Sanctuary in Tumdiband.

The total forest cover in Kandhamal district is 5710 Kms. Majority of the People in Kandhamal depend on Forest to earn their livelihood. The area which falls under the proposed Sanctuary, is predominately dominated by tribals. Once the sanctuary is setup, a sizeable tribal population will be displaced from that area. Due to restrictions in the sanctuary area, the local people will not be allowed to enter the Forest to collect even the minor forest products. This will result in unemployment also. Besides, the staff who will be deployed from outside Kandhamal will not be able to preserve the culture and heritage of the area. Sir, this will hurt the sentiments of the local people.

As such, I urge the Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment and Forests to drop the proposal to set up a Sanctuary at Tumdiband, Orissa.