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Title: Need to establish an eco-tourism project at Kudremukh in Karnataka.

SHRI K. JAYAPRAKASH HEGDE (UDUPI-CHICKMAGALUR): State-run Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) has expressed its willingness to enter the eco-tourism sector utilizing its existing infrastructure at Kudremukh by investing Rs. 805 crore on the new project of eco-tourism. It has prepared the detailed project report and got the in-principle nod from the Karnataka Government for the project.

The KIOCL had an iron ore mine in Kudremukh, which was operational for 30 years and was closed down in 2006 due to environmental issues. The KIOCL plans to use the existing facilities to develop the project on its 1622 acres of land and has sought the State Government's approval for renewal of the lease for 99 years. I would also like to share that the project would generate revenue for the State and create an additional employment potential for the local population.

KIOCL Ltd. has prepared a detailed project report to the effect the the project will be set up on 162 hectares of revenue land lease area and not in Kudremukh National Park (KNP) area. The project will not be in conflict with the tiger conservation project that the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest plans to start in KNP and will be in consonance with the law of the land.

Hence I would like to request the Union Government to provide all necessary help and cooperation for the establishment of an eco-tourism project at Kudremukh.