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Title: Need to resume boat service in Thekkady Lake, a tourist destination of Kerala.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): Respected Chairman, the Thekkady Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala's Idukki district is the most important tourist destination in India and it is world famous too. Thousands of tourists are visiting Thekkady every year. It is a national pride to the whole country. But, after the tragic boat accident happened on 30th September, 2009 this year in the Thekkady Lake, boat service was stopped. Boat service for sight-seeing was the main attraction here and stoppage of the service adversely affected the tourism industry as a whole. The local people, traders, taxi and auto drivers, and tourist guides of Kumily Panchayat are now struggling for their livelihood. In my understanding, the boat service was stopped after some direction from the Environment and Forest Ministry and some clearance is required to resume the service. An immediate intervention is required from the Tourism Ministry as well as the Environment and Forest Ministry in this regard. I am requesting them to convene a meeting of all the concerned to resume the boat service in the Thekkady Lake to save this world famous tourist destination. Thank you very much.