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Title: Need to allocate more funds for development of Pulicate Lake under Destination Development Scheme in Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu-laid.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary is a famous 481 Sq. Km protected area in Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu near Chennai. Pulicat lagoon is the second largest brackish-water eco-system in India. The lagoon has rich flora and fauna diversity, which supports active commercial fisheries and a large and varied bird population. The lake, on an average, attracts over 15,000 tourists per month during peak season and the number of visitors has increased recently after the construction of a bridge across the lake. Pulicat lake development was taken up under the Destination Development Scheme as it has good potential. The Tourism department had obtained Central assistance of Rs. 2.6 crore in 2008-2009. But the proposed work of developing the area for the benefit of bird watchers, visitors and for boating activity has not been completed. I appeal to the centre to allocate more funds and make it a world class eco-tourism centre.