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Title: Need to develop Lonar Lake in district Buldhana, Maharashtra as a tourist spot-laid.

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR (PARBHANI): Lonar Lake is one of the three natural salt-water lake in the world with a diameter of 1800 metre. It is situated near Lonar village in the Buldhana district, Maharashtra. As the water of this lake is salty, the presence of species of bacteria related to water borne diseases were also found higher indicating the non-potable nature of the lake water but the stream (DHARA) water is normal and, therefore, has medicinal value, its importance could be gauged by the fact that during the reigns of Akbar, a salt factory was located here. To add to its natural beauty the lake has enough fauna in its surroundings making it a serene and scenic spot.

The lake is circular except on the north-east side, where siltation caused by the Dhara has created small mudflats. The crater is 150 metres in depth and is absolutely confined from all sides by the walls of the crater and there is not a single channel draining way from it, thereby leaving the lake waters stagnant for thousands of years. A large portion of the lake is rather shallow, preserving about two metres of water during the monsoon months. However, the lake has dried up completely in the year 1991. Keeping in view the medicinal value of the salty water, the State Government should dig up the crater to get water in the lake.

In view the Lonar lake's historical, scientific, and medicinal value, I feel that this lake alongwith other temples could be developed as a tourist spot which may yield revenue to the State Government. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Central Government to extend all assistance and facilities including financial assistance to State Government in this regard.