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Title: Plight of SC Fishermen of Deepor Beel in Guwahati city, Assam.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (GUWAHATI): I would like to raise the very pitiable plight of the poor fishermen, who are residing near Deepar Beel. It is situated in Guwahati City. It is covering forest hidden area of 414 hectare.

SC fishermen catch their fishes there. They engage in this fishing work for generations together. But these poor fishermen are about to be uprooted due to the faulty policy of the local Government. The Deepar Beel is brought under Food and Agriculture Ogranisation and is controlled by Fishery Department of Government of Assam.

A few years back, the Government of Assam has promulgated an order to declare the Deepar Beel as Bird Reserves, which has created a lot of problems for this very poor fishing community, as they solely depend upon the Deepar Beel. Moreover, I would like to mention that there are lots of bird sanctuaries in Assam; the Deepar Beel is situated in the heart of Guwahati. If the whole Deepar Beel is converted into a reserve area for birds, then it will create very pitiable condition for the poor fishermen, who are there for years together. Moreover, these fishermen are not only fishing there but they also conserve and nourish the water bodies which are there in the Deepar Beel.

So, I would like to request you that the proposed promulgation to make this Beel as barred reserve should be abolished thereby giving relief to the poor fishermen.