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Title: Need to release the fund for construction of Tourist amenities across river Godavari for Pushkaram Festival.

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Godavari Pushkaram is a festival of River Godavari which occurs once in 12 years. The Pushkaram festival was last held in the year 2003. The next Godavari Pushkaram will start from July 2015 onwards. During Godavari Pushkaram, pilgrims from all over the country will have a holy dip with the belief that they would be relieved from all sins, and perform rituals to departed souls. The first 12 days of Godavari Pushkaram is called Aadhi Pushkaram and the last 12 days of Godavari Pushkaram is called Anthya Pushkaram. These 24 days are very pious to devotees. A large number of pilgrims throng in to these places during Pushkarams. Government of Andhra Pradesh is planning to make arrangements for pilgrims during Pushkarams. In the year 2003 above two crore pilgrims have attended the festival in Rajahmundry alone.

In view of the above, I submit to inform you that a number of amenities are required at various locations abutting river Godavari. Therefore I request you to release an amount of Rs 25 crore from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for construction of Tourist amenities across river Godavari at the earliest.