

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to take steps to develop eco-tourism spots inside the Simlipal Sanctuary in Mayurbhanj Parliamentary Constituency, Odisha.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA HANSDAH (MAYURBHANJ): I would have preferred to speak in Santhali but I hope that it will happen in the next Session.

Madam, there are eighteen biosphere reserves corresponding to IUCN Category V Protected Areas and Simlipal is one of those areas. It is also situated in my constituency. The Simlipal Sanctuary could not be declared as National Park. As around sixty-four families are staying inside, the core area could have not been relocated.

Biosphere reserves are meant for protecting larger areas of natural habitats, not only with flora and fauna but also with symbiotic existence of the people around it. The protection of the Sanctuary could only be assured if we could provide sustainable livelihood to the inhabitants residing inside the biosphere region.

Therefore, the development of eco-tourism spots inside the region is very essential. If the Ministry of Tourism or Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change pays enough attention to develop tourism in the Simlipal area, livelihood for a lot of people could be ensured.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष:**

कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल को श्री रामचन्द्र हाँसदा द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।