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Title: Need to protect mangrove forest of Sunderbans in West Bengal. -
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SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sundarban means “Beautiful forest”, it comprises closed and open mangrove forests, tidal streams and channels. Four protected areas in the Sundarban are enlisted as UNESCO world heritage sites. Despite a total ban on all killing or capture of wildlife other than fish and some invertebrates, it appears that there is a consistent pattern of depleted biodiversity or loss of species. Ecological quality of the forest is declining. The forest is suffering from increased salinity due to rising sea levels and reduced fresh water supply and mangrove forest in the area is the victims of destruction by unscrupulous elements. Lakhs of people still live in this area and earn their livelihoods from the forest. My earnest request is to save the forest from rampant plunder.