

Title: Need to declare Sunderbans in West Bengal as a tourist resort and provide funds for its development - Laid.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR) : Sundarban has a unique and magnificent scenic beauty. It is the biggest delta of Asia. The centre has already declared Sundarban as a National Park. Sunderban is also known for the Royal Bengal Tiger and the world's largest man groove swamp. This beautiful delta can be converted into tourist spot. The local people will not only benefit from this, the Government of India can also earn huge foreign exchange. But lack of development due to shortage of resources has affected the tourist potential of Sunderban. The State Government has taken some measures. But these are not enough.

A large number of domestic and international tourists visit Calcutta. But they can be attracted to Sunderbans if we are able to develop roadways, waterways and construct some good hotels. I have several times demanded to declare Sunderban rivers as national waterway. But so far no steps have been taken.

I urge the Union Government to declare Sunderban as an international spot. This will enhance the socio, economic, cultural development of the local people and at the same time the international tourist inflow would help the Central Government earn foreign exchange.

â€¦(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 17.45 hours.

1506 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past

Seventeen of the Clock.

1745 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-five minutes past Seventeen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)