

Title: Need to instruct the Government of Orissa to check illegal fishing in Chilka lake.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Sir, the unabated increase in the illegal fishing has posed a serious threat to the fragile ecosystem of Asia's largest brackish water lagoon Chilka in Orissa. The beautiful lake is facing the problem of siltation and obstruction of the migratory routes of aquatic species. The most serious issue for the lake has been the large scale poaching of juvenile economic species. As many as 30 varieties of fish, prawn, mollusca, and crab are affected as the poachers are collecting only the tiger-prawn juvenile and rejecting other species, which are thrown outside the lagoon.

The Chilka lake has been facing a serious ecological degradation since 1980. An estimated 0.365 million tonne of sediments get into the lake every year. The shoreline and creeks of the lagoon are being disturbed by the unauthorised fishing, which has resulted in the sharp decline of the production of fish, crab and prawn.

Unless immediate preventive steps are taken to stop the illegal fishing altogether, the lake will continue to face ecological degradation thereby adversely affecting the flow of large number of domestic as well as foreign tourists which will ultimately have an adverse impact on the economy of the people of the State. As such, I demand that the Government of India intervene in the matter and direct the State Government to take urgent action accordingly.