

an>

Title: Need to save Satkosia Gorge on river Mahanadi in Odisha.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): It is very important to save the Satkosia Gorge on river Mahanadi, which flows through Odisha and Chhattisgarh before reaching Bay of Bengal.

Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary consists of Satkosia Tiger Reserve Mahanadi Elephant Reserve and Gharial Research and Conservation Unit (GRACU).

Satkosia Tiger Reserve covers 963.87 sq.km. which was notified in 2007. The reserve spreads over four districts of Odisha namely, Angul, Cuttack, Nayagarh and Boud. It has tremendous genetic and ecological importance as it is the portion of Deccan Biogeography zone. It has a significant elephant population of around 300 in number. The sanctuary is also important being the natural habitat of two endangered species of fresh water crocodiles viz. Gharial and Mugger and sizeable population of Tiger, Leopard, Gaur, Sambar, and barking deer. Large number of giant squirrel is sighted in the forest. Rare and endangered birds and butterflies are very common in Satkosia Gorge of Mahanadi river.

This ecology will be damaged if the barrages are constructed by Chhattisgarh Government. Hence, I demand to cancel the environment clearance to barrages to save the Gorge on Mahanadi.