

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to construct raised platforms in Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife sanctuary to enable animals take shelters during floods.

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (JORHAT): Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, both situated in Assam are two very important wildlife destinations for tourists across India and abroad. Both inhabit a large number of wild animals and valuable plants, thereby maintaining the balance of ecosystem of nearby areas.

However, both the parks are situated in flood prone areas. Every year, the animals have to suffer a lot because of flood, many animals died in this season as well. One major reason of the death of animals is the National Highways running through both the parks. During flood, many animals need to come to the National Highways for shelter and this is indeed the biggest risk. Every year many endangered rhinoceros, deers, tigers, wild buffalos, wild boars, barking deers, leopards are either killed by running vehicles or killed by poachers.

To mitigate this, a multi-prong strategy is required. Environmentalists believe a limited amount of flood is required every year to preserve the flora and fauna of Kaziranga at least. However, the loss of lives of animals can't be accepted. As an immediate measure, I want to request Hon'ble Minister to construct certain number of raised platforms where animals can take shelter during flood. For this, proper places are to be identified first in both the parks in such a way that existing eco system is not disturbed. Apart from forest officials, local people and local environmentalists may be roped in to identify the exact locations of raised platform.

As a long term solution, I again want to make the request of diverting National Highways so that these do not pass through the national parks. This has been a long pending demand from the people of Assam and Hon'ble Minister may take cognizance of this.