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Title: Need to develop Son Bheel in Karimganj district, Assam as a tourist spot.

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): In my constituency and District Karimganj in Assam, there is an idyllic place with natural beauty namely Son Bheel, which is the largest natural fishing site in Asia with hills on both east & west sides. It covers an area of 85 Sq. Km. during high flood and reduces to 35 Sq. Km. in normal summer season. It is surrounded by 35 villages with a population of 80,000. The residents of the villages around depend on the wet land for fishing & agricultural purpose. The speciality of Son Bheel is that during winter season it becomes fully farm land where rice cultivation is done and from March onwards it become a natural lake. Water and soil of Son Bheel is suitable for natural fish breeding and in winter season it become a migratory bird's sanctuary. The tragic part is that in the absence of any prohibitory measures, the migratory birds are mercilessly killed by people for food. By planning & developing Son Bheel, it can be used for various purposes. Firstly, by protecting and developing the area as non-fishing zone, natural breeding of total fishes can be increased, bird sanctuary can be developed and logging water can be used for irrigation purpose in winter season. Once Son Bheel is developed as protected natural fishery and tourist spot, naturalists, birds watchers and scientific researchers will

find it a suitable place to visit. Tourists can also undertake rafting, angling and boat ride. Above all, the economic condition of the area will improve. So, I urge upon the DONER Ministry to take immediate steps for developing Son Bheel by sending a specialist team for survey and planning.