

Patra(Odisha), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana) and Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy (Andhra Pradesh).

Now, Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj - demand for measures to regulate fishing activities in Chilika Lake.

Demand to regulate fishing activities in Chilika Lake

SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ (Odisha): Sir, I rise today to draw the urgent attention of this House to the alarming issue of illegal fishing in Chilika Lake. As Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, Chilika is a unique ecosystem where fresh water from rivers and saline water from the sea come together, creating a dynamic habitat for diverse range of fish species. Many of these species, including Khanga, crab, Kundala and prawns, are seasonal migrants. They play a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance. However, illegal and indiscriminate fishing by certain groups, including non-local fishermen, is severely threatening this delicate ecosystem. These groups engage in large-scale fishing, indiscriminately catching fish juvenile species which disrupts the natural breeding cycle. Additionally, illegal prawn farming in the lake is causing serious damage, degrading water quality and leading to the decline of native fish population. The renowned Khanga fish, a world-famous delicacy from Chilika, is now at risk due to over-exploitation.

It is our duty to safeguard this natural reserve. I urge upon the Government to take strict measures to regulate fishing activities, enforce bans on illegal prawn farming and ensure that local traditional fishermen are not displaced. Immediate action is needed to curb illegal fishing and protect Chilika's rich biodiversity for future generations. I request the concerned Ministry to intervene at the earliest and implement the necessary conservation policies. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj: Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri Ritabrata Banerjee (West Bengal), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shri Subhasish Khuntia (Odisha), Shri Debashish Samantaray (Odisha) and Shri Muzibulla Khan (Odisha).

Shri Naresh Bansal - concern over rising problem of infiltration in India.