Respected Shri Javadekar Ji,

I am writing to you in connection with the issue of protection, conservation and preservation of "Parashuram Kund", which is a Hindu Pilgrimage centre situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit River in Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh.

Parashuram Kund is dedicated to sage Parshuram and finds a mention in "Kalika Purana" and it is said that the great sage Parashuram washed away the sins by taking a dip in the holy waters of the Kund. Thousands of devotees and sadhus from all across the country, Nepal and particularly the nearby States of Manipur and Assam congregate at Parashuram Kund to take a holy dip in its waters every year on the occasion of "Makar Sankranti" in the month of January. It is a shrine of all-India importance and it is believed that a dip in its holy waters washes away ones’ sins.

It is learnt that Arunachal Government has proposed 1750 MW Hydel Project (Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project) in Lohit river within the vicinity of Parashuram Kund. If this project is allowed to be constructed, it will generate 23 lakhs truck loads of debris, which will destroy not only the holy site of Parashuram Kund, but also the beautiful ambience of the site, which will be converted into a dump yard.

Not only is the site of Parashuram Kund very important from cultural point of view, it is also a very attractive tourist spot and the Ministry of Tourism has already sanctioned Rs.462.68 lacs to Arunachal Pradesh Government for construction of a Tourist Complex at the holy site. This money has already been released to the State Government during 2007-08 and has already been utilized by them. The construction of the Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project...
and the Dam will be disastrous for Parashuram Kund, which is important from both cultural as well as tourism angle.

May I, therefore, request you to kindly place on record the objection of the Tourism and Culture Ministry to this 1750 MW Demwe Lower Hydroelectric Project. I believe that the local stake holders have filed a case against the project in the National Green Tribunal, and as of now there is a stay on the construction of the project.

You are also, therefore, requested to kindly place the objection of Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Culture before the National Green Tribunal with regard to the above case.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Mahesh Sharma)

Shri Prakash Javadekar
Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate change
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex
New Delhi – 110003