

## **Regarding human-animal conflict in Kerala**

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Thank you Chairperson for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance concerning my State as well as my constituency.

The man-animal conflicts in Kerala is a very serious concern. The alarming rise in man-animal conflicts in Kerala has resulted in numerous human casualties, widespread crop destruction, and severe economic losses for farmers. The failure of existing mitigation measures and the lack of adequate support from the Central Government have worsened the crisis leaving the people living near forest border in distress in Kerala.

There is frequent intrusion of wild elephants, wild boars, tigers, and leopards into human settlements, particularly in my district Kollam and also in my constituency in Pathanapuram. Wayanad, Palakkad, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, and Malappuram have also been affected. There have been over 25 human deaths in the past three years, and there is destruction of agricultural lands worth Rs.500 crore. Despite repeated appeals from the State Government and affected communities, the Centre has failed to provide financial assistance or approve Kerala's proposal for population control measures and relocation of problematic animals.

Given the seriousness of the situation, the Central Government must declare man-animal conflicts as State-specific natural disasters to enable emergency relief funds. It should approve Kerala's request for controlled culling of wild boars, which pose a severe threat to farmers' livelihoods. Additionally, the Centre must sanction Rs.1,000 crore for wildlife conflict mitigation.