

Need to address the human-elephant conflict in Junglemahal region of West Bengal.-laid

SHRIMATI JUNE MALIAH (MEDINIPUR): There has been an alarming rise in human-elephant conflict across the Junglemahal region of West Bengal, including the districts of Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, and Purulia. In recent months, several incidents have resulted in loss of human lives, destruction of homes and crops, and deep psychological distress among rural communities-many of whom belong to vulnerable and tribal populations. Despite ongoing efforts by local forest departments, the absence of a coordinated and sustainable strategy has worsened the crisis. The communities are living in fear and are rapidly losing their means of livelihood. I urge the Union Government, particularly the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, to deploy central expert teams for assessment; release funds for conflict mitigation infrastructure; and formulate a comprehensive national policy that combines wildlife conservation with community protection and timely compensation. Immediate action is needed to protect both people and elephants in this ecologically sensitive region.