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**Title: Need to provide adequate funds for the projects aimed at checking the menace caused by elephants in the Southern districts of Karnataka . – Laid.**

**SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (MYSORE) :** The conservation of elephants is facing a major challenge in Karnataka due to the growing Elephant-Man conflict in that State. There are more than 2600 cases of crop raiding by elephants every year and this figure has been increasing year after year. There are also many cases of human injuries and deaths annually caused by wild elephants. There has been increasing anger of the public against elephants. They are destroying the small huts and hamlets and destroying the standing crops. So, electrocution of elephants has been taking a toll of nearly 25 elephants every year apart from shooting them down in and around agricultural fields and coffee plantations.

As such, there is an urgent need to reduce Elephants-Man conflict by erecting barriers between man and elephant habitats and preventing poaching, particularly in the Southern districts.

The State Government is not financially sound to bear the cost of creation of elephant proof barriers, i.e. elephant proof trenches, solar/power fences, dry rubble walls etc. to stop the movement of the elephants outside the reserves. I demand adequate funding by the Government of India to implement such projects.

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