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Title: Need to take steps to check the menace of wild elephants in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR) : Attention of the Government is drawn about the large scale migration of elephant population from its wild habitat to the open areas causing destruction of crop areas, dwelling houses in addition to killing of 50 to 60 persons every year and injuring hundreds of people in past few years in Assam. The population of the affected area has to pass sleepless nights and to live in panic all the time. Due to the depletion of natural habitat through encroachment and destruction of forest most of the 5,500 out of the total 10,000 populations of wild elephants in the NER are forced to migrate in search of food and shelter.

The Rs. 23 Lakh of relief granted by the Environment Ministry to Assam Government annually fails to provide adequate relief to the affected people except an ex gratia grant of Rs. 40,000 per death and Rs. 1000 per fully damaged houses. Crop damage is hardly compensated due to severe financial crises of Assam Government. There is a wide gap of compensation between Rs. 2 to 5 Lakh made to the families of persons killed by extremists in the country and for persons killed by elephants. May I therefore urge upon the Government to adopt the policy of a reasonable relief by ensuring reimbursement of the actual expenditure made for such activities by concerned State Governments. Government should also specially allow the Assam Government for capturing some of the over populated wild elephants which is presently banned by the Central Government.