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Title: Need to provide adequate compensation to the farmers who lost their crops due to elephant menace in Karnataka.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during the 'Zero Hour'.

I would like to draw the attention of the House regarding the man-elephant conflict in my constituency.

My constituency is Chamrajanagar which is situated in the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border. Out of the total geographical area of 6854 sq. kms. in Mysore District and 5101 sq. kms. in Chamarajanagar District, 1450 sq. kms. and 2791 sq. kms. respectively of forest areas are covered. There are two tiger projects. One is the Bandipur Tiger Project - the BRT Tiger Project. One National Park called the Rajiv Gandhi National Park comes under my constituency.

Regarding the man-elephant conflict, elephants were moving towards farmers' crop area and destroyed the growing crops. So, the compensation given by the Government is not scientific. The compensation given to the farmers is like this. For example, for Paddy, it is Rs.660 per quintal which the Government is giving. For maize/jowar, it is Rs.620 per quintal. For ragi, it is Rs.600 per quintal. For groundnut, it is Rs.1550. For sugarcane, it is Rs.81 per tonne. So, this is not scientific. The farmers are facing a lot of problems.

Hence, I would urge upon the Government to increase the crop compensation in a scientific way. So, I would earnestly appeal to the Government to increase the rate of crop compensation, release sufficient funds to settle the pending cases. About pending cases, I would like to say that 1120 cases are pending. The Government has not paid compensation to the farmers.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to immediately give money to the farmers.

There is one more point. To avoid man-elephant conflict, erection of solar fencing is very necessary. So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.