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Title: Need to amend the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 in order to protect the interests of people residing adjacent to forest areas.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): I take this opportunity to invite your notice to the fate of people who reside at the adjacent areas of forests. They are always under threat of reptile and mammal attacks that ranges from snakes, elephants to monkeys. The Parliament passed Wildlife (Protection) Act in 1972. Amendments have been made to update this Act to cope with the challenges in times. After the amendment of Wildlife Protection Act in 2002, the condition of people residing adjacent to forests became miserable. Amendment of Section 51 of the Principal Act enhanced the period of imprisonment to minimum three years and it can be extended to seven years. During the period of imprisonment, the convicted will not be granted bail. These new clauses compel people abstain from employing self-protective measures in case of animal attacks. This makes a feeling of insecurity among them. I request the Government to further amend the Wildlife (Protection ) Act so that the life and properties of the people residing adjacent to forests will be protected.