

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to promote honey bee farming.

Shri K. Ashok Kumar (Krishnagiri): In our country about 300 people are killed and hundreds injured annually through human-elephant conflicts. The invading elephants face dangers like firing, attack with spears and electrocution or killed in accidents by falling, speeding trains and trucks.

It occurs primarily due to encroachments of elephant passages and water bodies by Human settlements. Elephants can cause heavy damages to standing crops amounting to heavy loss for the farmers. As a result, the elephants are often killed and poisoned by plantation workers. It can have toll both on human lives and property as well as elephant population.

Nature has shown way to stop elephants invading the crops and habitation areas. Elephants are naturally scared of honey bees. Elephants would quickly move away if they hear sound of a buzzing hive. Some foreign countries follow the method of beehive to stop elephants from invading the crops. Beehive fencing is easy to make and costs very less compared to concrete barriers and electrified fences. The farmers also benefit from rearing honeybees.

Therefore, I urge the Government to promote beehive harvest and grant subsidy to farmers for beehive fences in order to keep elephants away from crops and human settlements.