

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding the wild animals intruding the human settlements and agricultural farms in Kerala.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Sir, I want to raise a grave and burning issue being faced by the farmers of Kerala due to the man-animal conflict, which is happening every day. Almost every day wild animals are regularly encroaching on the human settlements and agricultural farms. The number of casualties up to January this year in Kerala alone is as high as 64. Section 9 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 does not allow the farmers, settlers or even those who live in the urban areas where these animals encroach upon to take protective or preventive measures.

The population of wild animals has multiplied over the last few years. But the feed and drinking water available in the forest area for their survival remains limited. This pushes these wild animals to intrude on human settlements and agriculture farms. Boring of ditches and construction of fences (solar and otherwise) have failed to prevent such wild animal from encroachments and destruction of farms and attack on human beings.

Through this submission, I appeal to the Government of India to come up with amendments to the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 to facilitate the declaration of wild boars and other wild animals that encroach on human settlements and agriculture farms as "vermin". I would also request the Government to amend Section 62 of the Act in order to ensure use of self-protective measures to scare them away or

even to kill, if necessary, the intruding animals. This is a very burning issue.