

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding development of Elephant Reserve in Jangalmahal area-laid.

SHRI KUNAR HEMBRAM (JHARGRAM): The herd of elephants are on a rampage in West Bengal's Jhargram, Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur districts over the past few years. The herd of 44-50 elephants from Dalma forest in nearby Jharkhand are damaging houses, crops and killing residents. All the districts in Jangalmahal area are near the forests of Jharkhand and Odisha; from where herds of elephants come in search of food. In the past few years, there had been many incidents of elephants straying into human habitations in Jangalmahal area. Few years back, herds from Dalma forest in Jharkhand used to invade only farmlands in Jhargram, Purulia and Bankura, but in recent time they are entering the rural villages and even urban locality searching for food. Sometimes wildlife causality and death happens due to electric shock and collision with trains. The herd is at present in the forest area in Jangalmahal. At present, the Jangalmahal belt in West Bengal is the home to over hundred elephants.

Therefore, the concerned Ministry is requested to develop elephant reserve in Jangalmahal area or set up elephant corridors in the forest areas of Jangalmahal belt so that any causality of human as well as wildlife may be averted.