

Title: Need to set up an elephant sanctuary in Keonjhar district of Orissa to check menace of elephants.

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR): Sir, the farmers of tribal district Keonjhar in Orissa are facing a serious problem due to extensive damage caused to their crops by elephants. A large number of elephants are destroying their standing crops as well as the crops at the time of harvest. This is because they are not getting adequate food in the forest. The forest is being destroyed and degraded in those tribal areas by unscrupulous elements. When the elephants are not getting food to eat, they are going to the nearby villages and destroying the crops. A large number of people are killed by elephants every year. This year the situation has become very grave and tense.

Unless immediate steps are taken to protect the farmers and general public from the menace of elephants they may create problems in the locality. If an elephant sanctuary is set up in the area and the elephants are fed with sufficient food in the enclosures of the elephant sanctuary the problem will be over in future.

As such, I request that an elephant sanctuary be set up in Keonjhar district of Orissa and at the same time immediate steps may be taken to protect the people from the menace of elephants.
