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Title : Need to give adequate compensation to the farmers whose crops have been damaged by elephants in Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): The Chamarajanagar district with an area of 5,699 Sq. Kms has Forests spread over 2,756 Sq. Kms (49% as against the State average of 19%). Reserved Forest area of the district is spread over in 1,512 Sq. Kms. The farmers of this district are facing problems due to the elephants straying into farmlands adjacent to Forest and destroying their standing crops. These elephants create havoc. To make things worse, farmers erect illegal electric wire fence around their holdings to protect their crops and elephants which enter the area get electrocuted.

A total of 525 cases have been registered by the Forest Department related to cattle death and crop loss in the year 2009-10. The Forest Department has taken steps to disburse a total of Rs. 11.29 lakh compensation to the farmers. Of the received 794 applications seeking compensation, 735 applications were cleared for disbursal of compensation of Rs. 13.96 lakhs. Though the Forest Department reports have ascertained that 12 elephants died due to natural reasons in the year 2009-10, there were media reports that nearly 6 elephants died due to electrocution. Only one person died due to elephant-attack.