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Title: Need to set up a Deer sanctuary in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): There are nine Taluks under Sambhajinagar in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Apart from scanty rain fall and resultant water scarcity, the villagers of Kannad, Vaijapur, Gangapur, Paithan and Khulotabad are facing problems due to Deers and Kalwits. For the past eight years, standing crops have been damaged by the Deers and Kalwits roaming in the area.

The menace has become severe particularly over the past three years. The population of deer has shown a rapid spurt. Now thousands of them roam around in groups of 30-40, damaging crops. Deers have proved more dangerous than drought. Even fencing is not helpful.

The State Forest Department had planned a project worth Rs. 9.53 crore and submitted it to the Government of Maharashtra. However, due to financial constraints of the State Government, it could not be sanctioned. The work to set up a Deer sanctuary in Talwada Bhadli has not seen any progress.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take necessary action for implementation of the said project to save Deers/Kalwits as well as the farmers, in the public interest.