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Title: Problems being faced by the people due to frequent attacks of wild animals in Valparai, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu.

* SHRI K. SUGUMAR (POLLACHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Valparai hill region is famous for tea plantations and scenic beauty that makes it a place of tourist importance in Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu. More than 60,000 people live in Valparai estate area. Most of them are plantation workers working in tea estates there. It is also to be noted that most of them are hailing from the depressed class living in poor conditions. The entire Valparai estate area comes under the recently declared Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary. So far, at least 50 people lost their lives because of the attacks by wild animals in this area. Since it has been declared as a reserve forest area and a wildlife sanctuary, the State machinery goes all out to protect the animals ignoring the protection that has got to be given to human beings. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to rescind the declaration that the area would come under Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary so that protection can be ensured to human lives. People living there have to lead

their life with constant fear. Through this august House, I would like to urge upon the Government that steps must be taken to declare this area as hill tract with human inhabitation. Till such time when the alternative declaration is made, the human inhabitations in that hill tract must have protection by way of erecting fencing structure with fortifications and live-wire fencing. I also would like to point out that remote habitations in this area do not have proper road connectivity as they could not be laid due to the ban by the Union Environment and Forests Ministry. Vehicles and rural buses cannot go near the human habitations in the forest areas there. Only when proper road communication facility is established, people can have a sigh of relief and live peacefully there. In the meantime, the

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Union Government must come forward to adequately compensate the loss of lives and properties and extend Rs. 10 lakh to the bereaved families of whose members have been attacked by the wild animals that are sought to be protected by the Centre.