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Title: Need to erect solar powerd fences along the stretch of forest reserve in Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu to ensure protection from elephant menace.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): Krishnagiri District is one of the important forested districts in Tamil Nadu. Forest area falling under Denkanikottai taluk in the said district has been declared as 'Elephant Reserve'. The forests are known for their rich floristic and faunal diversity. The forest cover of this district extends over 1482 sq.kms.

However, elephants in the Reserve Forests of this district continue to be a threat to the people and they live in constant fear. Elephants, in search of food and water are attracted by banana, sugarcane and rabi crops cultivated in fields adjoining the Reserve Forests. They often enter the farm lands and villages. The effort made by the people and forest authorities to prevent their entry into human habitations and chasing them away into the forest area becomes a herculean task. Over the last few years, villagers killed by the elephants have increased. The affected villagers are also not adequately compensated by the Government. The steps taken to erect solar-powered fence bordering the forest area in the district is not adequate.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary steps for erecting solar-powered fencing along the entire stretch of forest reserve in the Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu and make provision for adequate drinking water to the elephants in the forests which can discourage them from entering into human habitations.