

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not take up the time of the House. You give fresh notice, and the statistics will be provided.

**Elephants causing damage in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

\*412. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Forest Department owned elephants are causing frequent damage to crops, properties and loss of human lives in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the last two years;

(b) if so, how many persons were killed by Forest Department owned elephants and the number of cases of damage by elephants, Tehsil-wise;

(c) whether Government have paid compensation to the families of the deceased and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether compensation was paid to the cultivators for damage of their crops, properties and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) Occasionally he elephants maintained by the Forest Department in Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands do cause damage to crops and property; but, killing of human beings is not common.

(b) During 1978-79, no one was killed. Two persons were killed in 1979-80 and one person has been killed during the current year so far. Two of the deceased persons were departmental employees and one was a private individual. The number of incidents Tehsil-wise involving damage

to crops and properties during the last two years are as follows:—

Name of Tehsil	1978-79	1979-80
Ferragunj	1	19
Rangat	47	21
Mayabander	2	1
Diglipur	32	6
Port Blair	—	2

(c) So far no compensation has been paid to the families of the deceased departmental employees as per the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 as their cases are still under settlement.

An amount of Rs. 1000 has been paid to the family of the private individual killed as an interim relief.

(d) Yes, Sir. During 1978-79 and 1979-80 amount of Rs. 8747 and Rs. 5339 respectively was paid to the cultivators for damage of their crops.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I have carefully gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister. He has agreed that the elephants owned by the Forest Department were let loose in the revenue villages and that is why this much of damage has been caused, though he has under-estimated the number of persons killed and the damage caused to property and crops. I would like to know specifically whether it is a fact that in many parts of the country, like Assam, where the Forest Department owns elephants for their work, they are not let loose in the revenue villages, whether the same thing is not applicable to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; if it is applicable to the Union Territory, why this negligence of the Forest Department causing the death of three persons?

Not only that. May I know whether he is aware that a pregnant lady was killed by an elephant owned by the Forest Department, since he has not mentioned it in his statement? May

I also know whether he is taking steps to stop the letting loose of elephants owned by the Forest Department in the revenue villages?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** Conditions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are different from those in the mainland as regards forests. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have very thick tropical forests and most of the logging and haulage work is done by elephants in that area. A large herd of elephants has to be maintained for the work. So far as my information goes, there was only one private individual, a lady, who was killed by an elephant. The other persons killed or attacked are men dealing with elephants, the mahouts. Letting loose of elephants for grazing would not make any difference in their case, because the mahouts can be attacked by the elephants even within the camp. The hon. Member says that it is on account of the negligence of the Forest Department that these incidents have taken place. That is not correct.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** My question has not been properly answered, because I said that in Assam and other areas letting loose of elephants owned by the Forest Department in the revenue villages is prohibited. Why is it not done in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

He says only one private individual was killed, but the mahouts are also human beings. My specific question is whether he is going to take any measures to stop the letting loose of the elephants owned by the Forest Department in the revenue villages. That he has not answered.

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** There are standing instructions in this respect. The Department has obtained this information over the long distance during this short period. As you know, Andamans are situated in a far off place in the sea, I would not be able to give fuller details of the incidents, but I would only request

the hon. Member not to read too much into the number of incidents because even the smallest incident where an elephant entered somebody's private field has been included in this statement. Even the jungle area would be included in the revenue villages demarcated as such. Therefore, taking into consideration the particular conditions prevailing in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, I do not think this is matter for alarm.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Rajda.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** I have not asked my second supplementary.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have put two supplementaries.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** I have asked only one supplementary. The Chair has to protect the rights of the members.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have allowed two supplementaries.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** I am coming from the union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands..

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have already taken 10 minutes on this Question. I have allowed two supplementaries. I am not going to allow more.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** I asked for only a clarification.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is all right. The hon. members are required to cooperate with me, not to do like this.

**SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA:** The hon. Minister just now stated how the elephants are creating havoc. I would like to know from him how many of these elephants are white elephants.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next Question.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Only a thousand rupees was offered as compensation for a pregnant woman who was killed. There seems to be something wrong. May I know whether the Government would see that a larger amount is offered?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already gone to the next Question. You cannot spend all the time on this Question. Mr. Horo.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: So much time was already wasted and you allowed it, I have a supplementary to put.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow.

#### Post of Chancellor for Jawaharlal Nehru University .

\*413. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the past 9 months the Jawaharlal Nehru University has been without a Chancellor; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WEL-  
FARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(b) Shri Morarji Desai had resigned from the Office of the Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University on July 27, 1979. The President, in his capacity as the Visitor of the University, accepted his resignation on October 6, 1979 and asked the Executive Council to recommend a panel of names for appointment of his successor. The Executive Council, after considering the matter at its meeting held on April 22, 1980, recommended a panel of names. The panel has been received in the Ministry and the matter is being processed further.

SHRI N. E. HORO: The statement says that the Chancellor of JNU, Shri Morarji Desai, resigned on July 27, 1979 and only after 2-3 months, the President accepted his resignation on October 6, 1979. It further states that the Executive Council at its meeting on April 22, 1980 prepared a panel of names. That means, a period of about 9 months had elapsed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when did the recommendation of the Executive Council come to the Ministry, what are the names of the persons included in the recommendation and how early the Government are going to appoint the Chancellor for JNU.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The Executive Council of JNU considered the question of drawing up of a panel of names for the office of the Chancellor at its meetings held on 22-11-1979, 20-2-1980 and 22nd April, 1980. The Executive Council sent a panel of three names, Dr. D. S. Kothari, Prof. D. T. Lakdawala and Shri Satyajit Ray.

SHRI N. E. HORO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much time they are going to take to finalise the name of the Chancellor because already 11 months have passed and the University is without a Chancellor. I want to know by which date they are going to appoint the Chancellor of JNU.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: There is no delay of 9 months. As I have said, it is only on 22nd April, 1980 that the Executive Council has sent the names. It is about 2 months now. We will take action as early as possible.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that Jawaharlal Nehru University has greatly suffered because of the fact that the Chancellor in the past, had