

eco-sensitive zones to other wildlife sanctuaries also in Kerala. Areas around wildlife in Kerala are different from other wild life areas in the country. Human inhabitation around the forests have developed into large cultivations and thickly-populated small towns. I am for protection of environment and wild life. At the same time, we have to think about human life. There should be an outlook accommodating co-existence of the wild life and human settlements.

So, I request the Minister of Environment to re-examine the norms for eco-sensitive zones and amend the Notification by excluding the human settlements from the eco-sensitive zone around the wild life sanctuaries.

Demand to enact legislation to check misrepresentation of India's map by online portals

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, Instances of wrong depiction of country's map by some social networking sites, online portals and websites to defame India are going on unpunished for years. Now, online encyclopaedia - Wikipedia - joined the bandwagon. Such repeated instances have the potential to disturb the sovereignty and harmony of India and they violate our territorial integrity.

In November last, Wikipedia had depicted map of India with Aksai Chin, a part of China. Of course, MeitY under Section 69A of the IT Act, directed Wikipedia to immediately remove the wrong map of India and it adhered to that. And, a month before Wikipedia incident, Twitter had shown Leh as part of China! After a strong letter from MeitY, Twitter tendered apology and rectified the mistake.

The point I am trying to make is how long we should keep surveillance on sites, portals, social media platforms or online encyclopaedia. So, I suggest for the consideration of the Government of India to enact a legislation to punish such wrong depictions.

Sir, in 2016, the Geospatial Information Regulation Bill was prepared. According to the Bill, it is mandatory to take permission from the Government before depicting, acquiring, disseminating, publishing or distributing any geospatial information of India and any wrong or false topographic information of India, including its international boundaries, through Internet platforms or online services or in any electronic or physical form is punishable with a fine between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.100 crore and jail up to seven years.

Hence, I request the Government of India to enact this legislation which will put a full stop to all the above wrong depictions and misrepresentations.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri P. Wilson; not present.

The House stands adjourned till 9 a.m. on Wednesday, the 10th February, 2021.

The House then adjourned at twenty-one minutes past two of the clock till nine of the clock on Wednesday, the 10th February, 2021.