

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*142
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

Compensation for crop destruction by wild animals

*142. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any system in place for compensation for losses to farmers in the country due to destruction of crops by wild animals;
- (b) the extent of destruction of crops done by wild animals every year and the measures taken by Government to prevent the same;
- (c) whether it is a fact that farmers themselves have to bear the burden of destruction of crops by wild animals as a result of which every year farmers have to suffer huge losses; and
- (d) whether Government would develop a system to compensate farmers for losses incurred on account of destruction of crops by animals?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a), (b), (c) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO *142 REGARDING 'COMPENSATION FOR CROP DESTRUCTION BY WILD ANIMALS' BY SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD DUE FOR REPLY ON 01.01.2018.

- (a) Yes Sir. Presently there are systems in place, both at the Centre and State level for compensation for losses to farmers in the country due to destruction of crops by wild animals.
- (b) The extent of destruction of farmer's crop damaged by wild animals is not collated in the Ministry. However, the Ministry provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. It includes compensation for depredation by wild animals including cattle lifting, crop damage, loss of life and property. The activities supported under the Schemes *inter alia* include construction /erection of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields; improvement of wildlife habitat of wild animals by augmenting the availability of food and water in forest areas to reduce the entry of animals from forests to habitations and setting up of anti-depredation squads to drive away problematic animals. State Governments also provide relief from their own funds for damage to crops by wild animals.
- (c) There is a mechanism already in place for providing compensation against crop damages by the Government. Ex-gratia payments are made by State/UT Governments for damage to crops by wild animals, but the rates vary from State to State. Due to this the loss suffered by the farmers may not be ruled out.
- (d) There is a system in place in both Central and State/UT Governments to compensate farmers for losses incurred due to destruction by the wild animals, however disbursements of funds is the responsibility of respective State/UT Governments.
