

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *179
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

Wild animal attacks in Uttarakhand

*179. SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

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

- (a) whether Government will take urgent steps for a permanent solution to the wild animal attacks on people, specially of leopard, elephants, monkey, wild boar, etc. in Uttarakhand, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government will give adequate compensation to the families of the people who lost their lives and the people who got injured by the attack of wild animals; and
- (c) whether Government will give adequate compensation to the farmers whose crops were destroyed by wild animals in Uttarakhand?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) AND (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *179 REGARDING “WILD ANIMAL ATTACKS IN UTTARAKHAND” BY SHRI NARESH BANSAL FOR REPLY ON 22.12.2022.

- (a), (b) and (c) Protection and management of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/ UT Administrations. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs for conservation of wildlife and its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’, ‘Project Tiger’ and ‘Project Elephant’. It includes payment of *ex-gratia* relief for loss of life and property caused by wild animals.

An advisory to deal with Human wildlife conflict was issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to all States/UTs on 06.02.2021. The Advisory recommends coordinated interdepartmental action, identification of conflict hot spots, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of rapid response teams, formation of State and District level committees to review the quantum of *ex-gratia* relief, issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments, and provision of adequate funds for suitable portion of *ex-gratia* relief to be paid within 24 hours to the affected persons in the case of death and injury to persons.

The Ministry has also issued guidelines to States/UTs on 03.06.2022 on managing human-wildlife conflict including damage to crops. The guidelines advise States/UTs to utilize the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY). Under the revamped operational guidelines of PMFBY, States/UTs may provide add-on coverage for crop loss due to attack by wild animals.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry, *ex gratia* relief is payable for loss of life or injury caused by wild animals. The amount of *ex-gratia* relief payable was enhanced by the Ministry in the year 2018.

The amount of *ex gratia* relief payable under the schemes is as follows:

S. No	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of <i>ex-gratia</i> relief
i.	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs.5.00 lakh
ii.	Grievous injury	Rs.2.00 lakh
iii.	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs.25,000/- per person
iv.	Loss of property/crops	State/UT Government may adhere to the cost norms prescribed by them.
