

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 179
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03/02/2023

LOSS OF CROPS DUE TO STRAY ANIMALS

179. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has any scheme for the farmers to recover the loss of crops damaged by wild or stray animals, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the quantum of loss of crops being faced by the farmers due to wild/stray animals every year;
- (c) the efforts being taken by Government to control the menace of wild/stray animals; and
- (d) whether the farmers themselves bear the loss of crops due to wild/stray animals due to which they have been facing huge loss every year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The responsibility to formulate the scheme to prevent/check the damage to crops by wild or stray animals lies with the concerned state Governments. States/UTs assess the quantum loss of crops damaged by wild or stray animals and take appropriate actions. The details of loss of crop damage by wild or stray animals are not collated in the Ministry.

(c) & (d): To check damage of crops by stray and wild animals, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) provides financial support to States / UTs through its Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for carrying out various activities for habitat improvement. These include restoration of natural water bodies, creation of artificial ponds, waterholes, augmenting food/fodder sources at various places within Protected Areas, construction/erecting of physical barriers such as solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary wall etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop field. It also includes provision for ex - gratia payment in case of loss of human life and damage to crops.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through the Revamped Operational Guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Fasal BimaYojana (PMFBY) effective from Kharif 2020, has given liberty to states to consider providing add-on coverage for crop loss due to attack by notified wild animals wherever the risk is perceived to be substantial and identifiable.

The state governments also take various interventions to control damage of crops by stray and wild animals such as, financial assistance to Goshalas to manage stray cattle, radio collaring of the wild elephants, digging elephant trenches, erecting barricades along railway tracks, etc. The state governments also make provision to compensate farmers for the crop losses as per extant law of the respective states.
