

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 827
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

Survey on blackbucks

827. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey of blackbucks in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that blackbucks have been causing huge damage to the crops across the country and if so, the details thereof
- (c) whether Government proposes to provide compensation to people for the destruction of their crops by the blackbucks; and
- (d) whether Government has formulated a policy to control the menace of blackbucks and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Census of tigers and elephants is undertaken at the national level. However, census of other wild animals is undertaken at the State level by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations periodically. The Ministry does not collate the details of population of blackbucks in the country.
- (b) and (c) Management of wildlife and its habitat is primarily the responsibility of concerned States/Union Territories.

The reports received in the Ministry from the States do not indicate that blackbucks have been causing huge damage to the crops across the country.

The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for conservation of wildlife and its habitats. This also includes assistance for management of human wildlife conflict situations, including compensation for depredation by wild animals including cattle lifting, crop damage, loss of life and property, etc. Ministry has raised the *ex-gratia* rates in connection with wildlife depredation on 9th February, 2018. The enhanced compensation amounts are as follows:

S.No	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
(a)	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs. 5,00,000/-
(b)	Grievous injury	Rs. 2,00,000/-
(c)	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs. 25000/- per person
(d)	Loss of property/crops	State/UT Government may adhere to the cost norms prescribed them.

- (d) The Ministry has issued an Advisory to the States/Union Territories on 6th February 2021 and also on 3rd June 2022 to deal with Human wildlife conflict. These advisories recommend coordinated inter-departmental 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 etc.
