

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 35
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

Steps taken to control human wildlife conflict

35. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

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

- (a) the details of steps taken to control human wildlife conflict in the last five years;
- (b) the number of forest guard staff and wildlife wardens posted in the country, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to better equip forest staff to deal with man wildlife conflict?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) The important steps taken by Government to control human wildlife conflict in the country during last five years are as follows:
 - i. The Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and human-wildlife conflict in and around protected areas and conducting awareness campaigns to sensitize and advise the general public.
 - ii. A network of Protected Areas covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
 - iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines for development of linear infrastructure in Wildlife and its adjacent areas to mitigate human -wildlife conflict.
 - iv. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict was issued by the Ministry to all States/UTs in February 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, and prompt payment of relief to affected persons.
 - v. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 for preventing and managing

- human-wildlife conflict including crop damage caused by wild animals.
- vi. The Ministry has released species specific guidelines on 21.03.2023 for mitigation of Human -Elephant, -Gaur, -Leopard, -Snake, -Crocodile, -Rhesus Macaque, -Wild Pig, -Bear, -Blue Bull and -Blackbuck Conflict as well as Guidelines for cross cutting issues such as cooperation between the forest and media sector in India; occupational health and safety in the context of human-wildlife conflict mitigation; crowd management in human-wildlife conflict related situations and addressing health emergencies and potential health risks arising out of human-wildlife conflict situations.
 - vii. Payment of ex-gratia amount to victims of wild animal attack is provided with a view to reduce human wildlife conflict. The Ministry on 9th February, 2018 enhanced the ex-gratia payment on death from Rs. 2.00 Lakh per person to Rs. 5.00 Lakh per person with increase in amount for ex-gratia in case of injury to human as well.
 - viii. Advance technology like radio collaring, E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.
 - ix. The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict.

However, details relating to forest guard staff and Wild Life Wardens posted in the country are not collected by the Ministry.
