

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *209
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

Animal-human conflict in the country

*209. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that animal-human conflict is on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the action taken by Government to prevent such conflicts;
- (d) whether Government is aware of the reasons involved in such conflicts; and
- (e) the action taken by Government to create awareness among the people to avoid such conflicts?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *209 REGARDING 'ANIMAL-HUMAN CONFLICT IN THE COUNTRY' BY DR. M. THAMBIDURAI FOR REPLY ON 21.12.2023.

(a) and (b) Incidences of human wildlife conflicts have been reported from various parts of the country. The information available with the Ministry indicates state wise fluctuating statistics with regards to human wildlife conflict in the country. As per the information available with the Ministry, the details of human deaths in the states in the last five years due to the attacks by tigers and elephants are at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II**.

(c) to (e) The main reasons attributed for human wildlife conflict include:

- i. Degradation and fragmentation of the habitat, depletion of the natural prey base, resource use in the wildlife habitat by human beings for various reasons like grazing, fuel-wood, grass removal and exploitation of wild fruits , etc.
- ii. Increase in population of wild animals due to sustained protection efforts.
- iii. Changing crop patterns, presence of stray dogs and cattle in forest fringe areas etc.

The important steps taken by Government for management of human-wildlife conflict, including creating awareness are as follows:

- i. The Ministry has issued advisory on 06.02.2021 to all States/UTs to deal with human wildlife conflict situations. 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, and sensitization and awareness drives.
- ii. The Ministry has issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
- iii. The Ministry has issued guidelines for development of linear infrastructure in Wildlife and its adjacent areas to mitigate human - wildlife conflict
- iv. The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats and 'Project Tiger and Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country. The activities supported under the scheme 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, including *ex-gratia* payment for depredation caused by wild animals, awareness creation.

- v. 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.
- vi. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued following three SOPs to deal with human-animal conflict, which are available in public domain:
 - a. To deal with emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes
 - b. To deal with tiger depredation on livestock
 - c. For active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level
- vii. A network of Protected Areas namely viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves 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.
- viii. Advance technology like radio collaring, E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.
- ix. The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities which help the forest departments in protection of wildlife.
- x. In accordance with provisions contained under Section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Ministry has issued guidelines for the process of management planning for Protected Areas and other landscape elements. This guideline also envisage human-wildlife conflict management.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *209 due for reply on 21.12.2023 regarding 'Animal-human conflict in the country'

The details of human deaths due to tiger attack, as reported by States

S. No.	State	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Assam	1	0	0	0	0
2	Bihar	0	0	1	4	9
3	Karnataka	1	4	0	1	1
4	Kerala	0	0	2	0	0
5	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	11	2	2
6	Maharashtra	2	26	25	32	85
7	Orissa	2	0	0	0	0
8	Rajasthan	2	5	0	0	0
9	Tamil Nadu	0	0	1	3	0
10	Telangana	0	0	2	0	0
11	Uttar Pradesh	5	8	4	11	11
12	Uttarakhand	1	2	0	1	3
13	West Bengal	15	3	5	5	1
TOTAL		31	49	51	59	112

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *209 due for reply on 21.12.2023 regarding 'Animal-human conflict in the country'

Human casualties due to elephant attack

S. No.	State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Andhra Pradesh	7	4	6	NR	5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	2	0
3	Assam	84	75	91	63	80
4	Chhattisgarh	61	77	42	64	69
5	Jharkhand	87	84	74	133	96
6	Karnataka	12	30	23	17	29
7	Kerala	27	12	20	25	22
8	Maharashtra	1	1	NR	0	2
9	Meghalaya	3	4	6	3	3
10	Nagaland	1	0	0	0	1
11	Odisha	72	117	93	112	148
12	Tamil Nadu	47	58	57	37	43
13	Tripura	NR	2	1	2	2
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	6	1	0	4
15	Uttarakhand	3	NR	NR	NR	4
16	West Bengal	52	116	47	77	97
Total		457	586	461	535	605

*NR- Information not received from State
