# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## RAJYASABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1336 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

#### **Human Wildlife Conflicts**

#### 1336. SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether human-wildlife conflict is on the rise in the country;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to deal with human-wildlife conflicts in the country;
- (c) whether Government has issued any advisory/guidelines for the management of human wildlife conflicts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government provides ex-gratia compensation to the people affected by wildlife attacks; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

### **ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d)
- Incidences of human-wildlife conflict have been reported from various parts of the country. However, such reports do not indicate an increasing trend in the cases of human-animal conflicts in the country. The important steps taken by Government for protection of wildlife and management of human-wildlife conflict are as follows:
  - i. The Ministry has issued advisory on 06.02.2021 to all States/UTs to deal with human wildlife conflict situations.
- ii. The Ministry has issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
- iii. 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.
- iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory framework for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- v. A network of Protected Areas namely, 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.
- vi. The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats, 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country.
- vii. 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.
- (e) and (f) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change also provides financial assistance to States /UT's under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger and Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats including for ex-gratia payments to the people affected by wildlife attacks. The States/Union Territories make ex-gratia payments for loss of livestock, crops and human life including injuries due to human-wildlife conflicts as per the norms which vary from State to State.

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