

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2109
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

Loss of life and property in Kerala due to wild animals

2109. DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) the physical, economic, and property losses caused to the citizens of Kerala by various wild animals, including pigs, during the years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 so far; and
- (b) the details of the responsibilities of the State and Central Governments to prevent this loss of life and property along with the details of the remedial steps taken by Governments so far?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Protection and management of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments, including Kerala. The details of physical, economic and property losses caused due to wild animals including pigs are not collated at the level of the Ministry. However as per the information received from the State of Kerala, the details of physical, economic and property loss caused by various wild animals, including pigs in the last five years in Kerala is at **Annexure-I**.

The important responsibilities and actions taken by Government for management of human-wildlife conflicts are as follows:

- i. 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.

- ii. 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.
- iii. The Ministry has issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
- iv. The Ministry has issued guidelines for development of linear infrastructure in Wildlife and its adjacent areas to mitigate human - wildlife conflict
- 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. The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict.
- xi. Section 11 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the State Chief Wild Life Warden to permit any person to hunt a wild animal that has become dangerous to human life and property (including Standing crops).

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2109 due for reply on 21.12.2023 regarding 'Loss of life and property in Kerala due to wild animals'

Year	Human Death		Cattle loss, Crop damage and property loss (Nos.)	
	Physical	Economic	Physical	Economic
	(Nos.)	Compensation Amt Rs.(in lakh)	(Nos.)	Compensation Amt Rs.(in lakh)
2019-20	102	221.70	6063	492.54
2020-21	97	270.50	7077	515.05
2021-22	152	444.10	7094	611.86
2022-23	99	337.31	5800	465.82
2023-24	105	110.00	4555	51.07
Total	555	1383.61	30589	2136.34