

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 39
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

Human-animal conflicts

*39. SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiative to contain human-animal conflicts in various States, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of people died in the State of Kerala due to human-animal conflicts along with the steps taken for the fencing of wildlife sanctuaries and forest areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *39 REGARDING “HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICTS” BY SHRI HARIS BEERAN FOR REPLY ON 25.07.2024.

(a) and (b) Protection and management of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations. Several incidences of Human-Wildlife conflicts have been reported from various part of the country. The important steps taken by the Government of India to mitigate and contain human-animal conflicts are as follows:

- i. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued an advisory to all States/UTs on 06.02.2021 to deal with Human-Wildlife conflicts. 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, issuing guidance/instructions for expedited relief to be paid within 24 hours to the affected persons in the case of death and injury to persons.
- ii. The Ministry has also issued guidelines to States/UTs on 03.06.2022 on managing human-wildlife conflict including damage to crops. The guidelines advise States/UTs to utilize the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY). Under the revamped operational guidelines of PFMBY, States/UTs may provide add-on coverage for crop loss due to attack by wild animals.
- iii. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs for conservation of wildlife and its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored schemes – ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’, ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’. The activities supported under the scheme include construction/erection of physical barrier such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls etc. to prevent of wild animals into crop fields.
- iv. Financial assistance is also provided by the Ministry to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored schemes – ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’, ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’ for payment of ex-gratia relief for loss of life and property caused by wild animals. The amount of ex gratia relief payable under the schemes is as follows:

Sl.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
i.	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs.10.00 lakh
ii.	Grievous injury	Rs.2.00 lakh
iii.	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs.25,000/-per person
iv.	Loss of property/crops	State/UT government may adhere to the cost norms prescribed by them.

- v. The Ministry has released species-specific guidelines on 21.03.2023 for mitigation of conflicts arising from various wild animals namely Elephant, Gaur, Leopard, Snake, Crocodile, Rhesus Macaque, Wild Pig, Bear, Blue Bull and Blackbuck. Guidelines were also issued for cross cutting issues such as cooperation between the forest and media sector; 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. 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.
- vii. 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 process of management planning for Protected Areas and other landscape elements. These guidelines also envisage human-wildlife conflict management.

As informed by the State Government of Kerala, the number of human deaths due to attacks by elephants, tigers and other wild animals during the last five years is as follows:

Year	Death caused by elephants	Death caused by tigers	Deaths caused by other wild animals	Total
2019-20	13	2	77	92
2020-21	27	1	60	88
2021-22	35	1	78	114
2022-23	27	1	70	98
2023-24	22	1	71	94
