

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 352
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

Rising animal-human conflict in our country

352. 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 also to avoid such conflicts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) and (b) Incidences of human-wildlife conflict have been reported from various parts of the country. The information available with the Ministry indicates state wise fluctuating statistics with regard to human wildlife conflict in the country. The details of human deaths as reported by States in the last three years due to attacks by tigers and elephants are at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II**.
- (c) to (e) The major reasons causing 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 the Government to mitigate and manage human-wildlife conflict including creation of awareness among the people to avoid such conflicts are as follows:

- i. The Ministry has issued an advisory to State and UTs on 06.02.2021 to deal with human wildlife conflict situations.
- ii. The Ministry has also issued guidelines to States and UTs on 03.06.2022 on managing human-wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
- 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’ which *inter-alia* include payment of ex-gratia relief for loss of life and property caused by wild animals, awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict. The Ministry has enhanced the amount of ex-gratia relief in case of death or permanent incapacitation from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 Lakhs due to wild animal attacks during December 2023.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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.
- vii. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued SOPs to deal with human-tiger conflict.
- 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.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no . 352 due for reply on 25.07.2024 regarding ‘Rising animal-human conflict in our country’

Number of Human Deaths caused by the Tiger Attack

S. No.	State	2021	2022	2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	NR
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	NR
3	Assam	0	0	NR
4	Bihar	4	9	NR
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	3
6	Jharkhand	0	0	NR
7	Karnataka	1	1	8
8	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	10
9	Maharashtra	32	82	35
10	Mizoram	0	0	NR
11	Orissa	0	0	NR
12	Rajasthan	0	0	NR
13	Tamil Nadu	3	0	1
14	Telangana	0	0	NR
15	Uttar Pradesh	11	11	25
16	Uttarakhand	1	3	NR
17	West Bengal	5	1	NR
TOTAL		59	110	82

*NR- Information not received from State.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 352 due for reply on 25.07.2024 regarding 'Rising animal-human conflict in our country'

Number of Human deaths caused by elephant

S.No.	State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	NR	5	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	0
3	Assam	63	80	74
4	Chhattisgarh	64	69	51
5	Jharkhand	133	96	87
6	Karnataka	27	29	48
7	Kerala	35	27	22
8	Maharashtra	0	2	5
9	Meghalaya	3	3	7
10	Nagaland	2	1	1
11	Odisha	112	148	154
12	Tamil Nadu	37	43	61
13	Tripura	2	2	1
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	4	4
15	Uttarakhand	NR	4	8
16	West Bengal	77	97	99
Total		557	610	628

* NR- Information not received from State.

* Data also include human deaths outside Forest Area.