

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 376
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

Understaffing in wildlife habitats in the North-East

376. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to address the understaffing and lack of infrastructure in wildlife habitats in North-east as highlighted in the Management Effectiveness Evaluation Report, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to address the issue;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has plans to enhance training for frontline workers and implement eco-tourism initiatives to achieve better conservation outcomes in the region, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of strategies in place, if any, to improve management practices and infrastructure of wildlife sanctuaries in Assam and other North-eastern States?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Management of forest and wildlife is primarily the responsibility of States/Union Territory Governments. As informed by the State Governments, regular recruitments are undertaken from time to time to fill up vacant positions in wildlife habitats. People from local communities are also engaged to assist the existing regular staff in patrolling, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, animal rescue, conducting awareness etc.
- (c) to (e) The important steps taken by the Government conservation and management of wildlife in the country including North-eastern states include the following:
 - i. The Ministry provides financial assistance to State Government under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' (CSS-DWH) and 'Project Tiger and Elephant' for conservation of wildlife and development of wildlife habitats. The activities

supported under these scheme includes development of grasslands, weed eradication, creation of water holes, maintenance of fire lines, creation of anti-poaching camps, watch towers, check nakas, repair of roads, maintenance of patrolling vehicles and boats, engagement of protection squads, eco-development works, capacity building of front line staff and villagers, mitigation of human wildlife conflict etc.

- ii. The Ministry has issued 'Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021' with the goal to promote better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation while generating income and opportunities for the local communities in an ecologically, culturally and financially sustainable manner.
- iii. 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 which *inter-alia* envisage amalgamation of modern technologies with the traditional methods of protected area management and usage of modern technologies, Staff Training and Capacity Building.
