

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 378**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

**Steps to save wild animals during floods**

378 SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that flood situation in Assam has adversely affected the wild animals in Kaziranga National Park, if so, the number of animals died due to floods during the last five years;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by Government for the protection of the wild animals; and
- (c) the standard procedure in place to save the wild animals during floods in view of the flood situation being a recurring phenomenon in Assam?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) As per the information received from the State Government of Assam, a total of 511 wild animals died due to floods during the last five years
- (b) & (c) The important steps undertaken which inter-alia includes activities in the standard procedure being followed by the State Government of Assam to protect and conserve wildlife during flood situation being a recurring phenomenon in Assam as follows:
  - i. Awareness Campaigns and meetings are conducted with residents of fringe areas to educate them on wildlife protection and conservation during floods. Loudspeaker announcements are made in villages on the do's and don'ts if animals stray.
  - ii. Additional Forest Staff from nearby divisions are deployed to patrol and perform flood-related duties in Kaziranga National Park. They also monitor vehicle speeds on Asian Highway 1 (NH-37) to prevent animal deaths due to vehicle collisions.
  - iii. Additional security forces from the police department are deployed in the districts of Golaghat, Nagaon, and Karbi Anglong. They assist forest personnel with anti-poaching duties and help mitigate human-wildlife conflict during floods.

- iv. District Transport Officers and Motor Vehicle Inspectors from Nagaon and Golaghat districts control vehicle speeds on Asian Highway 1 (NH-37) from Bokakhat to Jakhlabandha, which passes along the edge of Kaziranga National Park.
- v. Volunteers from Non-Governmental Organizations and Village Defence Parties monitor animal movements and help reduce vehicle speeds on Asian Highway 1 (NH-37).
- vi. Thirty-three new highlands and road-cum-highlands have been created to provide elevated resting spaces for wild animals during floods.
- vii. Vulnerable areas are barricaded.
- viii. Heavy vehicles are prohibited from using Asian Highway 1 (NH-37) at night to ensure safe movement of wild animals during floods.
- ix. Time cards are issued at various checkpoints from Burapahar to Bokakhat to regulate vehicular speed on Asian Highway 1 (NH-37).
- x. Anti-poaching camps are equipped with country boats for regular monitoring and patrolling inside the park during floods.
- xi. Each range office has an emergency response team equipped with mobiles, wireless sets, traffic wands, and flashlights. These teams regulate vehicular traffic and facilitate wildlife migration to higher grounds outside the park.
- xii. A flood monitoring cell and control rooms are established in all range offices and the division office in Bokakhat to monitor flood levels. Flood level scales are installed in Dhansirimukh and Difalumukh with support from the Central Water Commission to assess inundation levels.
- xiii. Animal Sensor System has been installed in six locations to monitor animal movement and regulate vehicle movement accordingly.
- xiv. Animal movements are tracked through drones in the Karbi Anglong hills.
- xv. State Disaster Response Force is deployed to provide additional support during rescue operations of wild animals and to ensure the safety of forest personnel inside the park.
- xvi. Staff from inundated and damaged camps are relocated to safer areas and engaged in patrolling the park's periphery. Temporary camps are established at vulnerable sites frequented by wildlife to ensure their safety during migration.

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