

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2309
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

Human-animal conflict

2309. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the alarming rate of human-animal conflict in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the proposed initiatives taken by Government to save human lives from animals;
- (c) whether Government is planning to amend the existing policies in order to give more autonomy to State and district administration in addressing human-animal conflicts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Incidences of human-wildlife conflicts have been reported from various parts of the country including from the state of Kerala. The important steps taken by Government for protection of wildlife and to address human-animal conflicts include the following:
- 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 schemes include construction/erection of physical barriers such as solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields.
 - ii. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February 2021. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 on managing human-wildlife conflicts including damage to crops.
 - iii. The Ministry has also issued species-specific guidelines to deal with human-wildlife conflict situations on 21.03.2023.

- iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- v. A network of protected areas namely, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitat 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. The Ministry has enhanced the amount of ex-gratia relief in case of death or permanent incapacitation due to wild animal attacks during December 2023 from Rs. 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife 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 landscape elements.

(c) to (e) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory framework for Chief Wild Life Wardens of States/UTs to deal with human-wildlife conflict situations.

Further, the advisory/guidelines issued by the Ministry on handling human-wildlife conflict to all State Governments/UT Administrations suggest various measures which include coordinated interdepartmental action, formation of State and district level committees, identification of conflict hot spots, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of rapid response teams and such other measures.
