GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3069 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Human wildlife conflict

3069. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the incidents of human wildlife conflict, particularly inregions with high incidences of wildlife population with close proximity to humansettlements;
- (b) if so, steps taken in this regard;
- (c) steps taken by Government to ensure timely and adequate compensation for families
 affected by wildlife attacks, and to provide rehabilitation for those displaced by such

conflicts, especially in rural and forest-adjacent areas;

- (d) whether Government has launched any awareness and Education programmes tosensitize local communities, especially in wildlife-prone regions, about coexisting peacefullywith wildlife and adopting effective conflict mitigation strategies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (e) Incidences of human-wildlife conflict have been reported from various parts of the country. The important steps taken by Government for protection of wildlife and to address human-wildlife conflict 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 including management of humanwildlife conflict 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. 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.

- iii. 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. 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, and issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments etc.
- iv. The Ministry has also issued species-specific guidelines to deal with humanwildlife conflict situations on 21.03.2023.
- v. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- vi. 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.
- 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.
- viii. Periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on human-wildlife conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media is carried out by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.
