

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3097
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026

Leopard attacks on humans

3097. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

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

- (a) whether incidents of leopard attacks in the country on humans and pet animals in urban fringes and rural areas have increased in recent years including Maharashtra;
- (b) the mechanism adopted for scientific data collection on leopard population, movement patterns and attack incidents;
- (c) the preventive strategies in place, including habitat management, early warning systems and coordination with local bodies; and
- (d) whether Government provides compensation, medical reimbursement or rehabilitation assistance to affected persons and families and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) Incidences of human-wildlife conflicts have been reported from various parts of the country including from the State of Maharashtra. However, the management of wildlife including mitigation of human-animal conflicts is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. The State Government/UT Administration are the first responders to any conflict situation and they maintain the details of the conflict along with the species involved.

This Ministry conducts the leopard assessment in Tiger Range States and landscapes at every four years using a double-sampling approach. It includes ground-level sign surveys via the M-STriPES append individual identification through Camera Trapping. The data is analysed using Spatially Explicit Capture-Recapture (SECR) models to provide robust density estimates.

Further, the important steps taken by the Government to manage the human-wildlife conflicts include the following:

- i. The Ministry has released species-specific guidelines on 21.03.2023 for mitigation of Human Wildlife conflicts including Leopard, taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach for addressing human-wildlife conflicts. The Ministry has also issued guidelines for cross cutting issues such as cooperation with media, occupational health and safety in human-

wildlife conflict mitigation, crowd management and addressing health emergencies arising out of human-wildlife conflict situations. Ministry has also released Guidelines on Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife.

- ii. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry on 6th February, 2021. The Ministry has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June 2022 to manage Human Wildlife conflict 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 for its expeditious payments etc.
- iii. Advance technology like radio collaring, digital sensor walls and E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.
- iv. The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict. The State Forest Departments work with the local people to address the Human Wildlife Conflict issues through periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on human-animal conflict including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, State Forest Departments engage with local communities to monitor the movement of some wildlife species and to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life, property and wildlife. The Ministry has also taken an initiative for establishment of the Centre of Excellence for the Human – wildlife Conflict management, at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), WII -South India Centre at Coimbatore.
- v. The Ministry provides financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations 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 include procurement of early warning systems, construction and erection of physical barriers such as barbed wire fence, solar, powered electric fence, bio-fencing, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields, compensation for depredation by wild animals including cattle lifting, crop damage, loss of life and property. Rapid Response Teams are also deployed to mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict. Further, the Ministry enhanced the amount of ex-gratia relief in case of death or permanent incapacitation due to wild animal attacks in December 2023 from Rs. 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs under these Schemes, subject to availability of funds, and the payment of which is also governed by State specific guidelines/ provisions made in this regard.

The details are given in the table below:

S. No.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
i.	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs.10.00 lakhs
ii.	Grievous injury	Rs.2.00 lakhs
iii.	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs.25,000/- per person
iv.	Loss of property/crops	State/UT Government may adhere to the cost norms prescribed by them.

The States/Union Territories make ex-gratia payments for loss of livestock, crops and human life including injuries due to human-wildlife conflicts as per the norms, which vary in States and UTs.
