

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 538
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

Balancing conservation of snakes with public safety

538. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) the names of States/UTs that have declared snakebite cases and deaths as a notifiable disease under their respective public health laws, pursuant to the recent advisory issued by the Central Government;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any assessment/study of the increasing incidence of human-snake conflict in forest fringe and rural areas and its linkage with habitat loss, climate variability and ecological imbalance; and
- (c) whether any guidelines or programmes have been implemented under wildlife conservation frameworks, including the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to balance conservation of snake species with public safety?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per information received from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, all States and Union Territories were advised on 27.04.2024 to notify snakebite as a notifiable disease under the respective State Public Health Acts and other applicable legislation. Based on the information received, eight States namely Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Odisha, have declared snakebite cases and deaths as notifiable.

(b) & (c) While the primary responsibility of managing human-wildlife conflict vests with the States, this Ministry taking into consideration the observations of the National Centre for Disease Control and National Health Mission under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued guidelines on mitigating human-snake conflict, adopting a harmonious co-existence approach. These guidelines besides focusing on outreach, awareness & capacity building, prescribe measures to address emergency situations arising due to human-snake conflict to reduce the impact on health and well-being of humans as well as of the snakes.

The Ministry has established a Centre of Excellence for Human–Wildlife Conflict Management at the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), WII–South India Centre, Coimbatore, to strengthen the scientific and institutional framework for managing human–wildlife conflict.
