

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 546
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

Compensation to victims of Tiger attacks in Sundarbans

546. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) the year-wise and forest range-wise number of deaths and injuries due to tiger attacks in Sundarbans Tiger Reserve during the last five years and whether casualties are under-reported due to unauthorised entry into prohibited forest areas;
- (b) the year-wise number of compensation claims filed, approved, rejected and pending, and amounts disbursed under applicable Central and State schemes, including the West Bengal Government's 2021 notification providing ₹5 lakh compensation; and
- (c) the steps taken by NTCA to mitigate human-tiger conflict, promote alternative livelihoods and support rehabilitation of tiger widows in South 24 Parganas?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As reported by the State, the details of deaths and injuries due to tiger attacks in Sundarbans Tiger Reserve during last five years and current year, year-wise and forest range-wise, are as under:

Year	Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary		Basirhat Range		National Park East		National Park West		Area not mentioned*	
	Death	Injury	Death	Injury	Death	Injury	Death	Injury	Death	Injury
2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
2022	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
2023	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
2024	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
2025	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
2026	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0

* Reported as 'Sundarbaner Jongole': means inside forest area of Sundarban which is 4200 sq.km. The incidents reported are not outside the forest.

As reported by the State, the year-wise details of compensation claims filed, approved, rejected and pending and amount disbursed are as under:

Year	Ex-gratia claim filed		Ex-gratia claim approved		Rejected		Pending		Amount Disbursed
	Death	Injury	Death	Injury	Death	Injury	Death	Injury	
2021	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	25,00,000.00
2022	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	25,000.00
2023*	38	0	8	0	30	0	0	0	40,00,000.00
2024*	52	1	6	0	46	1	0	0	30,00,000.00
2025*	31	8	3	0	28	5	0	3	15,00,000.00
2026	5	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	0.00

* The old pending ex-gratia claims were submitted and decided during the period.

Most of the claims were rejected due to :

- (i) Delay in filing the claim and non-feasibility of conduction of enquiry due to considerable delay in reporting
- (ii) Place of occurrence is not mentioned properly
- (iii) Non availability of post mortem report or death certificate

(c) The Government of India, through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, has issued a three pronged strategy to deal with human-tiger conflict which is as below:

(i) **Material and logistical support:** Funding support through the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, is provided to tiger reserves for acquiring capacity in terms of infrastructure and material, to deal with tigers dispersing out of source areas. These are solicited by tiger reserves through an Annual Plan of Operation (APO) every year which stems out from an overarching Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP), mandated under Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Inter alia, activities such as payment of ex-gratia, periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general populace on man-animal conflict, dissemination of information through various forms of media, procurement of immobilization equipment, drugs, training and capacity building of forest staff to deal with conflict events are generally solicited.

(ii) **Restricting habitat interventions:** Based on the carrying capacity of tigers in a tiger reserve, habitat interventions are restricted through an overarching TCP. In case tiger numbers are at carrying capacity levels, it is advised that habitat interventions should be limited so that there is no excessive spill over of wildlife including tigers thereby minimizing man-animal conflict. Further, in buffer areas around tiger reserves, habitat interventions are restricted such that they are sub- optimal vis-à-vis the core/critical tiger habitat areas, judicious enough to facilitate dispersal to other rich habitat areas only.

(iii) **Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs):** The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued following three SOPs to deal with human-animal conflict, which are available in public domain:

- i. To deal with emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes
- ii. To deal with tiger depredation on livestock
- iii. For active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level.

The three SOPs inter alia include the issue of managing dispersing tigers, managing livestock kills so as to reduce conflict as well as relocating tigers from source areas to areas where density of tiger is low, so that conflict in rich source areas does not occur.

Also as per Tiger Conservation Plans need based and site-specific management interventions are undertaken by the tiger reserves for improving the quality of wildlife habitat and funding support

for these activities is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.
