

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 729
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2017

Prevention of Man-animal conflicts

729. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:

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

- (a) the details of schemes/ projects under implementation at present for checking man-animal conflicts;
- (b) whether there is any proposal for launching any new scheme for this purpose, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether delay occurs in providing compensation in the event of death/injury to people caused by elephants, bear, boars and loss of crops/properties caused by them;
- (d) the details thereof;
- (e) whether in view of inflation, there is any proposal to increase the amount of compensation and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for protecting elephants/other wild animals; and
- (g) the preventive measures being taken for checking man-animal conflict in the country specially in Chhattisgarh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) There is no specific scheme under implementation at present for checking man-animal conflicts. However, financial assistance is provided to the States/UT Governments for checking human wildlife conflict under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (IDWH), 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' of the Government of India.
- (b) No Sir.
- (c), (d) & (e) The compensation to victims of wild animal attack is provided by the respective State/UT Governments. The Ministry does not make payments towards compensation directly. However, financial assistance is provided under Schemes of 'IDWH', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', as and when sought by State Government and subject to availability of funds.
- (f) The important steps taken to protect wild animals including elephants are as follows:
 - i) Legal protection to wild animals against hunting and commercial

exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- ii) Creation of Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger reserves, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- iii) Nation-wide launching of special programmes like 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for conservation of species like tigers and elephants.
- iv) Launching of a specific component of "Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and their habitats" under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH)' for focused conservation action on selected 16 critically endangered species.
- v) In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- vi) Provision of providing financial and technical assistance to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection to wildlife species and improvement of their habitats.
- vii) Empowerment of 'Central Bureau of Investigation' (CBI) under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- viii) Setting up of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

(g) The following are the important preventive measures taken to check man-animal conflict in the country including Chhattisgarh:

- i) Provisions provided under Section 11 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, *inter-alia*, empowering the Chief Wildlife Warden to take necessary steps to handle problematic wild animals.
- ii) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for management of major problematic animals like tiger, elephant, leopard, rhino etc are being used by the respective state governments.
- iii) Construction/erecting of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary wall etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop field.
- iv) Improvement of wildlife habitats by augmenting the availability of food and water in forest areas to reduce the entry of animals from forest to human habitations.

The Ministry has issued guidelines in context of human-wildlife conflict to the Chief Wildlife Wardens of all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations dated 24th December, 2014 and 1st June, 2015. The Ministry has specifically sought proposal from States/UTs, after objective assessment of the situation, details of the areas in which it is essential to reduce the over-population of wild animals for specified period.
