

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3543
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2017

Elephant Menace

3543. SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the rise in incidents of elephant menace in the country including Karnataka in the recent years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment of the losses incurred due to elephant raids on standing crops, human settlements etc.;
- (c) if so, the details of the loss of standing crops and human casualties during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has paid any compensation to the affected families;
- (e) if so, the details thereof during the said period; and
- (f) whether the Government has any proposal to prevent elephant menace by installing solar fencing and using state-of-the-art technology and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a) Yes Sir, reports of damage caused by elephant are received from various part of country, including Karnataka. Rise in the number of such incidents is due to fragmentation of forests and increased in human population. Number of people killed, State-wise, due to elephant attacks is given at Annexure.
- (b)&(c) No, scientific, country wide, study has been carried out to assess losses incurred by elephant raids on crops and human settlements.
- (d)&(e) Yes Sir, the details of compensation paid to the victims of elephant depredation for last three years are given below:

Years	Compensation paid for human depredation caused by elephants (Amount Rs. In Lakhs)	Compensation paid for crop and property depredation caused by elephants (Amount Rs. In Lakhs)
2014-15	923.27	4249.17
2015-16	1144.63	3933.93
2016-17	893.91	2784.88

- (f) Yes Sir, following steps are taken by the Government to minimize the impacts of elephant depredation:
- (i) Financial and technical assistance is provided to elephant range states under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant'.
 - (ii) Elephant range States notify the critical elephant habitats as "Elephant Reserves" for better management of wild elephants. So far 29 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 States
 - (iii) Elephant is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to provide it highest degree of legal protection.
 - (iv) Solar powered fencing and elephant proof trenches are used to prevent elephant menace.
 - (v) The latest technologies such as WhatsApp, SMS based alert system, use of Radio Collaring of elephant etc. are used to minimise elephant depredation.
 - (vi) Improvement of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary, Critical habitat, including Elephant Reserves and Corridors is carried out regularly.
 - (vii) Use of used rails to create elephant proof barrier.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3543 RAISED BY SHRI D.K. SURESH REGARDING 'ELEPHANT MENACE' DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.08.2017.

DETAILS OF HUMAN DEATHS DUE TO ELEPHANT ATTACKS

S.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	0	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	Information not received
3	Assam	54	31	69
4	Chhattisgarh	32	59	67
5	Jharkhand	53	66	42
6	Karnataka	53	47	49
7	Kerala	20	Information not received	Information not received
8	Maharashtra	3	0	0
9	Meghalaya	3	9	Information not received
10	Nagaland	1	1	1
11	Odisha	64	63	62
12	Tamil Nadu	31	47	43
13	Tripura	1	0	2
14	Uttar Pradesh	Information not received	Information not received	Information not received
15	Uttarakhand	7	7	4
16	West Bengal	89	112	82
	Total	414	443	423