

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1287
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2018

Human-Animal Conflict

1287: SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY::

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

- (a) whether there has been surge in human-animal conflicts in the past few years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has analysed or conducted any study to ascertain the reasons for the said conflicts and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether wild animals from forest areas are reaching upto human settlements in search of food, water and shortage of forest cover and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Wildlife Protection Society of India and some wildlife experts have suggested unconventional ways to reduce human-animal conflicts and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce such conflicts and increase availability of food and water in forest area for wild animals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Incidence of human-animal conflicts are reported in various parts of the country from time to time. However, there are no data indicating surge in human-animal conflicts in the past few years.
- (b) No specific study has been conducted by the Ministry to ascertain the reasons for the said conflicts.
- (c) Sometimes the wild animals are reaching upto human settlements in search of food, water and due to shortage of forest cover.
- (d) No suggestion has been received in the Ministry from Wildlife Protection Society of India and other wildlife experts for unconventional ways to reduce human-animal conflicts.
- (e) The important steps taken to reduce such conflicts and increase availability of food and water in forest area for wild animals are :
 - i. Ministry through its Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) namely 'Project Tiger', 'Project Elephant' and 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH)' provides funds to States and UTs for carrying various activities for habitat improvement works namely restoration of natural water bodies,

- creation of artificial ponds, waterholes, augmenting food/fodder sources at various places within Protected Areas to minimize the human animal conflict.
- ii. The Ministry, with financial assistance from Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), has formulated a scheme to provide assistance to the States for 'Augmentation of Fodder and Water in Protected Areas/Forest Areas', aimed at improving habitat in the areas by making provision for augmenting grass, fodder and water to the wild herbivores.
 - iii. A network of Protect Areas namely viz., National Park, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserving covering important wildlife habitat have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. The Ministry has approved a project for undertaking 'Immuno-contraceptive measures' for population management of wild animals.
 - vi. 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
 - vii. Periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on man-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media are undertaken.
