

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2441**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

**Damage to Agriculture Crops by Wild Life**

2441. DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the wild life nuisance to agriculture by Neel Gaya, wild cows and stray cattle;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the scale of damage to agriculture crops and inconvenience caused to farmers in this regard; and
- (c) the legal provisions to tackle the problem and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) and (b) Incidences of damage to crops by wild animals, including Neelgai etc as well as inconvenience caused to farmers are reported from time to time. However, the management of forest and wildlife is the responsibility of concerned State Governments. Details of damage to agriculture crops are not collated in the Ministry.
- (c) The important legal provisions to tackle the problem of damage of crops by wild animals and the measures taken by the Government in this regard are:
  - i. Under Section 11(b) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer is empowered to permit hunting of wild animals specified in Schedule II, III and IV if the species becomes dangerous to human life or property including standing crops or disabled or diseased beyond recovery.
  - ii. Under section 62 of the Act, any wild animals other than those in Schedule I and part II Schedule II can be declared as vermin for specified period.
  - iii. Keeping in view the losses to crops inflicted by the wild animals including Nilgai and Wild pig, this Ministry, on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 issued an advisory to the States highlighting the legal

provisions under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the human-wildlife conflict situations. Vide this advisory, Ministry has also sought proposals from State/Union Territory Governments, after objective assessment of the situation with details of the areas in which notification under section 62 of the Act, declaring any wild animals as vermin for specified period, could be helpful in management of conflict.

- iv. The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. The activities supported under the Schemes *inter alia* include construction/erection of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields; improvement of wildlife habitat of wild animals from forests to habitations and setting up of anti-depredation squads to drive away problematic animals.
- v. An advisory was issued by Ministry of Agriculture vide CPS 7-1/2009-NFSM dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, to the range States of Blue bull on management of Blue bull for protecting the agriculture.
- vi. Ministry has also formulated a scheme 'Augmentation of Fodder & Water Scheme in Protected Areas/Forest Areas' under central component of the fund managed by Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The scheme is primarily for augmentation of fodder and water sources for wild herbivores within the Protected Area/Forests areas.
- vii. The Ministry has approved a pilot project on the immuno-contraception for controlling the population of wild animals responsible for damage and destruction, namely; elephant, wild boar, monkey, and nilgai.
- viii. The Ministry has recently notified enhancement of *ex-gratia* rates related wildlife depredation.

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