

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2937
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2018

Deaths due to Animals Attacks

2937. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of frontline forest staff (rangers) deaths reported since 2014, due to animal attacks, murders at the hands of poachers, timber and sand mafia, and illegal miners, vehicle accidents, drowning and forest fires, category-wise;
- (b) the number of forest dispensaries in 769 Protected areas across the country;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure better safety of rangers against poachers, fellers, and miners;
- (d) the details of compensation paid to the families of rangers who were killed along with the number of rangers across India, number of trainings carried out for rangers since 2014;
- (e) whether the Government intend to have an institutional pan-India life or health insurance schemes for frontline forest staff, if so, the steps taken and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of studies, work carried out by committee for welfare of frontline forest staff under his Ministry and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Management of wildlife and safety of the forest staff is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. Report of deaths of staff (rangers) including the number of forest dispensaries in Protected Areas are not collated in the Ministry.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) The payment of compensation to the families of rangers killed is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for various activities including the management of wildlife and its habitats. This assistance also includes compensation for depredation by wild animals including loss of life and property.
- (e)&(f) The administration frontline staff is managed by the respective State/UTs Government. Various states Government have adopted measures for forest frontline staff. The important among these include:-
 - i. Provision for communication equipments for better mobility.
 - ii. Provision for arms and ammunition for protection
 - iii. Residential accommodations for the children of frontline forest staff in nearby towns/villages, supply of kerosene, medicine field kit, mosquito net, torch etc.
