

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.155
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.06.2019

Protection of Wild Animals from Road Accidents

155. SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to save wild animals from road accidents and prevent crop damage by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to rehabilitate these wild animals to their natural habitats or handover them to zoo authorities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JVADEKAR)

- (a)and(b) The Ministry has already initiated preventive measures to save wild animals from road accidents and secure crop damage by them. The important action in this regard includes:
- i. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Tiger Conservation Authority, National Highway Authority and World Bank has published a document namely 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' to assist the project agencies of linear infrastructure in designing the linear infrastructure in a manner which will reduce human-animal conflict in the areas where these linear infrastructures are passing through Protected Areas and other wildlife areas. The Standing Committee of NBWL in its 47th Meeting held on 25th January, 2018 recommended that in future user agencies involved in linear infrastructure development should take into consideration the advisory made in the guidelines of the Wildlife Institute of India while designing the linear infrastructures inside the Protected Areas, notified Eco Sensitive Zone area around PAs and in future linear infrastructure proposals by project proponents would be accompanied by an animal passage plan prepared, if required, on the basis of these WII guidelines and in consultation with the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

- ii. The application of this document is highlighted in mitigation measures which have been constructed on National Highway 7 (now NH 44) in Maharashtra in an 18 km forest patch between two important tiger source areas namely the Kanha and the Pench Tiger Reserves. These mitigation measures include nine structures which have six underpasses and three minor bridges of the following dimensions:

Sl. No.	Structure	Length	Number
1.	Underpass	750 meters	02
2.		300 meters	01
3.		100 meters	01
4.		50 meters	02
5.	Minor bridges	60 meters	01
6.		80 meters	01
7.		65 meters	01

- iii. The efficacy of these structures is being monitored by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in a project titled **“Ecological impact assessment of existing and proposed road infrastructure in important wildlife corridors for strategic planning of smart green infrastructure”** through the Wildlife Institute of India. This project has shown that critically endangered wildlife like tigers, dholes and gaur are successfully traversing these structures indicating their usefulness in avoiding road hits involving wild animals.
- iv. The Ministry through its various Centrally Sponsored Schemes 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 and outside Protected Areas to prevent wild animals venturing outside forest areas. Compensation to crop damage is also provided to the affected persons in the same scheme.

(c),(d)and (e) Subject to a health assessment, wild animals are rehabilitated back into the wild.
