

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5608
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2019

Construction of Yoga Centre along Elephant Corridor

5608. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has granted permission for construction of a yoga centre along the Elephant corridor in the Thondamuthur forest reserve in Coimbatore district specifically in the Vellaingiri foot hills area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on the forest area and the wildlife;
- (c) whether there has been increase in incidents of Man-Animal Conflict in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and surrounding forest area; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) No sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No sir. However, there are reports of some incidences of Man-Animal Conflict in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and surrounding forest areas and the details of corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard are given below:
 - i. Financial and technical assistance is provided to elephant range states under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant', to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of man-elephant conflict and welfare of captive elephants. In addition financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' and Project Tiger, for providing better protection to wildlife including leopards and improvement of habitat.

- ii. Construction/erecting of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, bee-hive fencing, elephant proof trenches, boundary wall etc. to prevent entry of wild animals into crop field.
- iii. All the elephant states have been directed to implement the Guidelines for Management of Human Elephant Conflict issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017.
- iv. 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.
- v. Works like creation of water sources, plantation of fruiting trees, pasture development, fire protection etc. are being done to enrich elephant habitat. The Ministry is implementing a scheme from the Compensatory Afforestation Funds to Augment Fodder and water in Protected Areas for increasing the availability of forage and water for herbivores within Protected areas so that animal can be retained within their habitats.
- vi. Regular and extensive patrolling of elephant areas by frontline field staff of the State Forest Departments is done so that elephants can be retained in their habitat.
- vii. To reduce man-elephant conflict and to avoid retaliatory killing of elephants, compensation is provided to local communities for loss of their property and life caused by wild elephants.
- viii. Forest Department is engaging local communities as animal trackers to know the movement of elephants and also to caution local people to avoid man-animal conflict and to prevent the elephant to their natural habitat.
- ix. Wildlife Institute of India in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank Group 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 conflicts in the areas where these linear infrastructures are passing through Protected Areas and other wildlife areas.
