

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.*162
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022

Elephant Menace

*162. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether the elephant menace causes heavy loss to lives and property in Jharkhand;
- (b) the details of number of human deaths due to the said menace in Jharkhand during the last two years along with the value of the property destroyed due to the said menace;
- (c) whether any provision exists for compensation against the loss incurred due to elephant menace and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken stringent steps to prevent large scale illegal poaching of elephants in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any measures have been taken by the Government to prevent human-elephant conflicts and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *162 REGARDING 'ELEPHANT MENACE' DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2022

- (a)&(b) As per the information received from State of Jharkhand, the details of human deaths and compensation paid against loss of property etc. during the last two years are given below:

Year	No. of human deaths	Compensation paid against loss of property etc. (Rs. In lakh)
2020-21	74	591.94
2021-22	133	485.38

- (c) In addition to compensation schemes of the State Governments, the Ministry is also providing financial assistance to States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Project Elephant, for ex-gratia relief at the following rates:

Sl. No.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
(i)	Death or permanent incapacitation to human beings	Rs.5.00 lakhs
(ii)	Grievous injury	Rs.2.00 lakhs
(iii)	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs 25,000/- per person
(iv)	Loss of property/crops	State/UT Governments may adhere to the cost norms prescribed by them

- (d)&(e) The management of wildlife including prevention of crimes related to elephant poaching and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations. Further, the following measures have been taken by the Ministry to reduce elephant mortality due to poaching and human elephant conflict in the country:-

- (i) The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant' for protection and conservation of elephants and their habitats in the country.
- (ii) A high-level committee was constituted by the Ministry to inspect the recent death of elephant in the State of Jharkhand and Odisha as per the decision taken during the 17th Steering Committee meeting of Project Elephant and the report has been submitted by the committee to the Ministry.
- (iii) To reduce human-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. The Ministry has notified enhancement of ex-gratia rates related to wildlife depredation vide letter No. 14-2/2011 WL-I (part) dated 9th February, 2018.
- (iv) An advisory on Human-Wildlife Conflict including dealing the wildlife crime has been issued by the Ministry on 6th February, 2021.

- (v) A guideline for Management of Human Elephant Conflict has been issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017 and elephant range states have been requested for implementation of the same.
- (vi) A field manual for frontline staff to manage Human Elephant Conflict was released during the 16th meeting of the Steering Committee on 29th April, 2022.
- (vii) Capacity building of frontline staff for investigation, forensics and successful prosecution of wildlife cases are being organised at regular interval.
- (viii) In addition, the Ministry in coordination with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has taken following measures to stop elephant poaching:
- Conducting joint operations with State enforcement agencies to apprehend criminals including poachers/ivory traders.
 - Conducting capacity building for Forests and Police Officials on investigation of wildlife cases under the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - Conducting sensitisation programme for the officials of Board Guarding Forces, Customs, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Judicial officers, RPF, GRP and other stakeholders.
 - Issuing alerts and advisories on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife to the concerned state and Central agencies for preventive actions.
 - The WCCB has developed an online Wildlife Crime Database Management System and shared user credentials with 970 Divisional Forest Offices, 50 Field Directors of Tiger Reserves and 37 Chief Wildlife Wardens in the Forest Department and 34 Directors General of Police to upload data pertaining to wildlife crime detected on day to day basis.
 - WCCB has also conducted special pan India enforcement operation to coordinate action among State/Central enforcement agencies. Ivory seizures have been effected in the “Operation WILDNET-I, II, III and IV”.
 - Moreover, WCCB participated in global operations such as operation Thunderbird envisaged by INTERPOL’s Wildlife Working Group, Operation THUNDERSTORM, Operation THUNDERBALL and Operation Thunder 2021, which resulted in the arrest of many criminals and seizures.
