GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5125 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

Attack by Wild Animals

5125. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK": SHRI AJAY NISHAD: KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

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

- (a) the details of cases of deaths of humans and domestic animals along with the damage to crops reported due to attack by wild animals during the last five years and the number of people who have sought compensation for said death of humans and domestic animals and also for damage done to the crops, State-wise;
- (b) the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) the present norms of compensation for the deaths of humans and domestic animals and the damage done to the crops due to attack by wild animals;
- (d) the details of animals listed under the category of predatory animals which destroys crops under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; and
- (e) the steps taken to protect wildlife and prevent/ reduce the loss caused to the human life and property as well as crops by the wild animals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a), (b) and (c) Protection and management of wildlife and human-wildlife conflict is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. Details of human deaths, loss of domestic animals and crops and compensation paid by the States are not compiled by the Ministry.

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The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States to prevent and manage human-wildlife conflict. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Development of Wildlife Habitats, funds are provided to States for protection and management of wildlife and human-wildlife conflict, including payment of ex gratia relief for loss of life or injury caused by wild animals. The amount of ex gratia relief payable under the scheme is as follows:

S. No.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
(a)	Death or permanent incapacitation to human beings	Rs.5 lakh
(b)	Grievous injury	Rs. 2 lakh
(c)	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs 25000/-
(d)	Loss of property/crops	States /UTs may adhere to the cost norms prescribed by them.

- (d) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 does not categorize any animal as predatory animal.
- (e) Some important steps taken by Government for protection of wildlife and management of human-wildlife conflict are as follows:
 - i. A network of Protected Areas covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
 - ii. The Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and human-wildlife conflict.
 - iii. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict was issued by the Ministry to all States/UTs in February 2021. The advisory recommends coordinated interdepartmental action, identification of conflict hot spots, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of rapid response teams, formation of State and District level committees to review the quantum of ex-gratia relief, and prompt payment of relief to affected persons.
 - iv. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued guidelines to States/UTs on 3rdJune, 2022 on preventing and managing human-wildlife conflict including crop damage caused by wild animals.
 - v. The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict.