

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 568**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023**

**Wild Elephant Attack**

568. SHRI PRAJWAL REVANNA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of public anger towards increasing number of deaths due to wild elephant attack on villagers in Sakakeshpura, Alur, Belur talukas of Hassan Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (b) if so, the details of deaths occurred due to wild elephant attack along with the details of compensation paid to the affected families;
- (c) whether the Government is able to find a permanent solution to the elephant menace, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of action taken by the forest department to install rope barricades, solar fences, digging trenches along with the funds spent for purpose during the last three years; and
- (e) whether the Government has provided adequate permanent front line staff like forest guards, watchers and rapid response teams, anti predation camps to the area affected with elephant menace and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a)&(b) As per the information received from State of Karnataka, the details of human deaths occurred due to elephant attack along with the details of compensation paid, in Sakleshpura, Alur, Belur talukas of Hassan Lok Sabha constituency are as follows:

<b>District, State</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of human deaths</b>	<b>Compensation paid (Rs. In Lakhs)</b>
Sakleshpura, Alur, Belur talukas of Hassan Lok Sabha Constituency, Karnataka	2021	15	90.00
	2022	07	30.50

(c)to(e) The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs Administration. The state forest departments are working with the local people to address the HEC issues through periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on man-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, Forest Departments are engaging with local communities as animal trackers to monitor the movement of elephants and also to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life and elephants. As per the information received from the State of Karnataka, in addition to the permanent frontline staff, non-permanent watchers are deployed as Anti-Depredation Camps (ADC) and Rapid Response Teams (RRT) whose details are given below:

RRT	5 Teams	20 Watchers
ADC	21 Teams	84 Watchers
<b>Total</b>	<b>26 Teams</b>	<b>104 Watchers</b>

A total of 74 wild elephants have been captured and rehabilitated since 2000 till date. Moreover, in addition to ongoing installation of barricade and solar fence, the State of Karnataka has constructed 9.50 km railway barricade and 14.0 km tentacle solar fence so far to mitigate human-elephant conflict.

In addition, the following measures taken by Ministry also help in mitigation of human elephant conflict:-

- (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) 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. 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.
- (iii) Various other Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by this Ministry contribute to the improvement in the natural habitat of elephants by augmenting water sources, planting of fodder trees, regeneration of bamboo etc. Such schemes include Development of Wildlife Habitat and Project Tiger. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and the Rules made there under also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, including for elephants, establishment of animal rescue centres, etc. which also contribute to reduction in HEC.
- (iv) 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.

- (v) Critical elephant habitats are notified as 'Elephant Reserve' for focus and synergy in elephant conservation and to reduce conflict. The notification is carried out with the approval of Steering Committee formed in the Ministry. So far 33 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 major elephant States.
- (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.

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