

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2894
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

Buffer Zones

2894. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any recommendations from the State Government of Kerala regarding demarcation of buffer zones around protected areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding demarcation of buffer zones around protected areas in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Board for Wildlife has any proposal to change the boundaries of protected areas in the State of Kerala, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps and measures being taken to minimize the human-animal conflict happening across Kerala;
- (e) whether the present forest laws make it complicated for a common man residing close to forest areas to obtain various permits; and
- (f) if so, the details of the steps taken to simplify the existing forest laws in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the procedure laid down for notification of ESZ, the draft proposals related to finalization of ESZ received from the State Governments are examined in the Ministry before publication. The final notification is published after examining the claims and objections received after the draft notification.
- (c) Ministry has not received any proposal for alteration of boundaries of protected areas in the State of Kerala for consideration of the National Board for Wild Life/Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life in the recent past.
- (d) The important steps taken by Government to minimize the human-animal conflict in the country including Kerala are as follows:
 - i. The Ministry has released species specific guidelines on 21.03.2023 for mitigation of Human -Elephant, -Gaur, -Leopard, -Snake, -Crocodile, -

Rhesus Macaque, -Wild Pig, -Bear, -Blue Bull and -Blackbuck Conflict as well as Guidelines for cross cutting issues such as cooperation between the forest and media sector in India; occupational health and safety in the context of human-wildlife conflict mitigation; crowd management in human-wildlife conflict related situations and addressing health emergencies and potential health risks arising out of human-wildlife conflict situations.

- ii. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 for preventing and managing human-wildlife conflict including crop damage caused by wild animals.
- 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. Payment of ex-gratia amount to victims of wild animal attack is provided with a view to reduce human wildlife conflict. The Ministry on 9th February, 2018 enhanced the ex-gratia payment on death from Rs. 2.00 Lakh per person to Rs. 5.00 Lakh per person with increase in amount for ex-gratia in case of injury to human as well.
- v. The Ministry has issued guidelines for development of linear infrastructure in Wildlife and its adjacent areas to mitigate human -wildlife conflict.
- vi. The Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and human-wildlife conflict in and around protected areas and conducting awareness campaigns to sensitize and advise the general public.
- vii. The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict.
- viii. Advance technology like radio collaring, E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.

(e) No Sir.

(f) In view of above, question does not arise.
