

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.521
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06th FEBRUARY, 2024

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY WILD ANIMALS

521. ADV.ADOOR PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the crisis in the agriculture sector of Kerala and noted the recent farmer suicides in the State;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that farmers are suffering huge losses due to damage to crops by wild animals;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is considering any action plan for this issue; and
- (d) whether the Government will consider any special assistance to the State to support the distressed farmers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India'(ADSI). The report till 2022 is available on NCRB website (<https://ncrb.gov.in>).

(b) to (d): Management of wildlife is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. Details of crop damage by wild animals and cases of farmers suicides are not collated at the level of the Ministry. Compensation for crop damage is paid by the respective State Governments. However, Government of India also provides financial support to States/UTs through its Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for carrying out various activities for habitat improvement. The ex-gratia relief payable for assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in case of depredation by wild animals and loss of human life or injury due to wild animal attacks, detail are as follows:

Sl. No.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
(a)	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs. 10,00,000
(b)	Grievous injury	Rs. 2,00,000
(c)	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs. 25000/- per person
(d)	Loss of property/crops	State/UT Government may adhere to the cost norms prescribed them.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through the Revamped Operational Guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Fasal BimaYojana (PMFBY) effective from Kharif 2020, has given liberty to states to consider providing add-on coverage for crop loss due to attack by notified wild animals wherever the risk is perceived to be substantial and identifiable.

The state governments also take various interventions to control damage of crops by stray and wild animals such as, financial assistance to Goshalas to manage stray cattle, radio collaring of the wild elephants, digging elephant trenches, erecting barricades along railway tracks, etc. The state governments also make provision to compensate farmers for the crop losses as per extant law of the respective states.
