

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2030
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2019.

Menace of Wild Animals

2030. SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHTO:

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

- (a) the details of the measures taken by the Government to control the menace of wild animals near forest areas leading to loss of life and property including damage to crops;
- (b) whether there is any provision of compensation to the people for the losses incurred as a result thereof;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the total number of people who have been granted compensation during the last three years including the current year, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) The Government has taken several steps to control the menace of wild animals near forest areas are as follows:
 - i. The Ministry has issued guidelines in context of human-wildlife conflict to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations dated 24th December, 2014 and 1st June, 2015, wherein the States have been requested to take pro-active steps including exercise of powers under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for mitigation of human-wildlife conflict and also to send proposals to this Ministry, to declare appropriate animals as vermin, specify the area of applicability and period thereof, after objective assessment of the situation which could be helpful in management of such conflicts.
 - ii. Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 there are provisions to deal with problematic wild animals, Section 11& 12 of the Act, *inter-alia*, empowers the Chief Wildlife Warden and authorised officers to take necessary steps to handle problematic wild animals.
 - iii. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', to control the menace of wild animals near forest areas including damage to crops which include

erecting of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary wall etc.

- iv. Government has modified operational guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) which has been implemented from 1st of October, 2018 which includes provision of Add on coverage for crop loss due to attack of wild animals on pilot basis with the additional financial liabilities of this provision to be borne by concerned state Govt. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change are making collaborative efforts in operationalization of this process.
- v. The Ministry has approved a pilot project on the immuno-contraception for controlling the population of wild animals responsible for damage and destruction of crops, namely; elephant, wild boar, monkey, and nilgai.

- (b) to (d) The provision for compensating the loss of farmer's crop damaged by wild animals varies from State to State. However, the Ministry provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' and there is provision to payment of compensation for loss of life and property. Further, the Ministry has increased the *Ex-gratia* payment in connection with wildlife depredation as follows:

Sl. No.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of <i>ex-gratia</i> relief
(a)	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs. 5,00,000/-
(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.

The details of the people for the losses incurred and the numbers of people have been granted compensations are not collated in the Ministry.
