

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2262
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.09.2020

Man-Animal Conflict

2262. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the loss of human lives due to frequent attacks by wild animals encroaching into agriculture fields and human habitations near forest borders in various states;
- (b) if so, the total number of human lives lost during the last five years ending August 2020, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the population of various wild species have multiplied during the last few years and that they are posing danger by encroaching into agriculture fields and nearby human habitations near forest borders due to insufficient food and water; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to control the man-animal conflict in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Incidences of loss of human lives due to attacks by wild animals are reported in various parts of the country from time to time. The management of forests and wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change does not maintain the data of human lives lost due to wild animals. However, as per information received from Project Elephant and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the number of human deaths caused by elephants and tigers, state-wise, during the last five years is given at **Annexure I and II** respectively.

- (c) As per available information, the estimated populations of Asiatic Lions, Tigers and Elephants are as follows:

Asiatic Lion:			
S. No.	Year	Population (nos.)	Percentage growth
1.	2005	359	87.74 % between 2005 and 2020
2.	2010	411	
3.	2015	523	
4.	2020	674	

Tiger:			
S. No.	Year	Population (nos.)	Percentage growth
1.	2010	1706	73.91 % between 2010 and 2018
2.	2014	2226	
3.	2018	2967	

Elephant:			
S. No.	Year	Population (nos.)	Percentage growth
1.	2007	27694	8.19 % between 2007 and 2017
2.	2012	30051	
3.	2017	29964	

No report has been received in the Ministry indicating that increase in the numbers of various wild species during the last few years is posing danger by encroaching into agriculture fields and nearby human habitations near forest borders due to insufficient food and water.

- (d) The measures taken by the Government to control the man-animal conflict in the country are as follows:
- i. Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. The broad activities supported under these schemes include compensation for depredation by wild animals and construction /erection of physical barriers to prevent entry of wild animals into crop fields. The funding has increased more than double in the last five years.

- ii. Ministry has issued advisories dated 24th December, 2014 and 1st June, 2015 in the context of human-wildlife conflict to the Chief Wildlife Wardens of all States/UTs.
- iii. Wildlife Institute of India in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank Group has published a document namely 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.
- iv. The Ministry has increased *ex-gratia* relief in 2018 eligible for assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in case of depredation by wild animals.
- v. The Ministry has notified Eco-sensitive Zones around 393 national parks and sanctuaries adding more areas for conservation of wildlife.
- vi. The total number and area coverage of protected areas has increased from 759 and 161974.90 km² respectively in 2015 to 903 and 1,65,012.59 km² respectively in 2020.
- vii. The Ministry has approved a project for undertaking 'Immuno-contraceptive measures' for population management of selected wild animal species.
- viii. All the elephant States have been directed to implement Guidelines for Management of Human Elephant Conflict issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017.
- ix. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued the following three Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to minimize conflict with humans: -
 - SOP to deal with "emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes".
 - SOP to deal with "tiger depredation on livestock".
 - For active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level.
- x. Periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on man-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media are carried out.

Annexure I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2262 REGARDING “MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT” BY SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.09.2020

Number of Human Deaths caused by elephant attacks from 2014-15 Upto 2019-20 (30.9.2019)							
S.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Upto 30.09.2019)
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	0	2	6	7	3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	NR*	NR*	0	Nil
3	Assam	54	31	91	72	84	43
4	Chhattisgarh	32	53	74	74	56	40
5	Jharkhand	53	66	59	84	87	42
6	Karnataka	53	47	49	22	12	13
7	Kerala	20	6	33	15	27	10
8	Maharashtra	3	1	0	0	1	Nil
9	Meghalaya	5	6	5	7	3	2
10	Nagaland	1	1	1	0	1	0
11	Odisha	65	89	66	105	72	50
12	Tamil Nadu	31	49	43	49	47	34
13	Tripura	1	0	2	0	NR*	2
14	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	3	1	0	3
15	Uttarakhand	7	7	4	5	3	0
16	West Bengal	89	112	84	66	52	30
Total		418	469	516	506	452	272

*No Report

Annexure II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2262 REGARDING “MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT” BY SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.09.2020

Number of Human Deaths caused by tiger attacks from 2015 to 2019						
S.No.	State	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1.	Assam	0	1	1	1	0
2.	Karnataka	2	0	0	1	4
3.	Kerala	3	0	0	0	0
4.	Madhya Pradesh	8	10	5	2	1
5.	Maharashtra	7	19	7	2	26
6.	Orissa	0	0	0	2	0
7.	Rajasthan	1	0	0	2	5
8.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	0	0	0
9.	Telangana	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1	15	19	5	8
11.	Uttarakhand	1	2	0	1	3
12.	West Bengal	18	14	12	15	3
Total		42	62	44	31	50