

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *175
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

Killing of Animals

*175. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the incidents of killing of animals including elephants and leopards in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the rise in encroachments in buffer zones of forests across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the conflict between people and wildlife including action taken to prevent encroachments in forest buffer zones?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *175 REGARDING “KILLING OF ANIMALS” BY SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH DUE FOR REPLY ON 12.02.2021

- (a) and (b) As informed by the Government of Kerala, several wild animals, including 11 Elephants, 1 Leopard and 1 Tiger, died in Kerala from 1st January 2020 to 31st January 2021 due to electrocution, hunting, poisoning, explosives, snaring/trapping, and vehicle hit. Details are given at **Annexure**.
- (c) and (d) State Governments/UT Administrations take care of conservation and protection of forests and wildlife in the States/UTs. The Central Government supplements their efforts by providing necessary technical support and financial assistance under various schemes to protect, conserve and manage forests and wildlife.
Buffer zone is not defined for forests. It is defined only for Tiger Reserves under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (e) Conservation efforts taken by the Government have resulted in increase in population of several wild animals including Elephants, Tigers, Leopards, Rhino, Asiatic Lions, etc. This along with the fact that the wild animals keep moving out of forests, often leads to negative interactions between humans and wild animals resulting in human wildlife conflicts. The important steps taken by Government of India to manage and mitigate human-animal conflict in the country include:
- i. Funds are provided under National CAMPA for augmentation of fodder and water in forest areas for restricting wild animals to forest areas. An amount of Rs. 47,872.31 Crores has been provided to various States for promoting afforestation and achieving green objectives of the country during 2019-2020.
 - ii. Voluntary relocation of villages from the core area of Tiger Reserves, National Parks and Sanctuaries is also being funded under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme: ‘Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats’ as proposed by the State Governments for avoiding conflict
 - iii. The 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 habitat enrichment and water augmentation.

- iv. The funds are also used for construction /erection of physical barriers such as solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary wall, animal proof trenches around forest, etc.
- v. The financial support to the States/UTs also includes a component of compensation due to damage by wild animals.
- vi. Under the revamped operational guidelines of Pradhan MantriFasalBimaYojna (PMFBY), issued by the Government of India (effective from the year 2020), States can provide add-on coverage for crop loss due to attack by wild animals.
- vii. Directions have been sent to all States/Union Territories for undergrounding of transmission lines upto 33 KV in forest areas and also maintaining transmission lines to avoid sagging.
- viii. Government of India has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/guidelines to manage Human-Tiger/Human-Leopard /Human-Elephant conflict.
- ix. The Ministry, in the year 2018, has increased *ex-gratia* relief under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in case of depredation by wild animals.
- x. To mitigate human wildlife conflict along linear infrastructures like rail tracks, roads/highways and power transmission lines passing through the Protected Areas and other wildlife rich areas, the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife has recommended that all linear infrastructure development Agencies should submit animal passage plans based on the guidelines prepared by Wildlife Institute of India.
- xi. The Ministry has approved a project for undertaking immuno-contraceptive measures for population management of wild animals

Annexure

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) AND (b) OF THE LOK SABHA
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Details of wild animals killed

| S.No. | Species | No. of wild animals killed | Reason for death |
|-------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Elephant | 11 | Electrocution, hunting, poisoning, explosives, snaring/trapping, vehicle hit. |
| 2 | Tiger | 1 | |
| 3 | Leopard | 1 | |
| 4 | Indian Bison | 4 | |
| 5 | Sambar Deer | 13 | |
| 6 | Peacock | 29 | |
| 7 | Nilgiri Langur | 9 | |
| 8 | Bonnet Macaque | 10 | |
| 9 | Jackal | 2 | |
| 10 | Large Bengal Monitor Lizard | 2 | |