GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. *4 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022

Attack of Wild Elephants

*4. SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the attack of wild elephants on human habitations in Kerala, particularly in areas of Kottiyoor in Kannur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of lives lost in the attack of wild elephants on human habitations in the country during the last three years and the current year, State/year-wise;
- (c) the details of fund allocation and utilization by the Union Government for compensating persons affected by wild-elephant attack; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue in the country particularly in Kerala?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *4 REGARDING 'ATTACK OF WILD ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.07.2022

- (a)&(b) As per the information received from State of Kerala, five human lives has been lost in wild elephant attack on human habitations during the last three years under the jurisdiction of Kannur Forest Division. The State-wise details of human deaths due to wild elephant attack, as per the information received from States, during the last three years is enclosed as Annexure –I.
 - (c) The State-wise details of fund released for compensating person affected by wild elephants under Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Elephant (CSS-PE) are enclosed as Annexure- II.
 - (d) The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of humanelephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations. The Government of Kerala has taken following steps to tackle the issue under the jurisdiction of Kannur Forest Division.
 - (i) Construction of 10.25 km Elephant Proof wall from Valaymchal to Kariyamkapu, Kotiyoor Range.
 - (ii) Establishment of solar fencing for 38.36 km in Thaliparamba Range, 69.5 km in Kottiyoor Range and 3.00 km in Kannavam Range.
 - (iii) Construction of 3 km elephant proof trench from Vietnam Colony to Nilayi.
 - (iv) Establishment of 11.5 Km hanging fencing in the forest boundary of Payyavoor Grama Panchayath.

In addition, the following measures taken by the Ministry also help in mitigation of human elephant conflict in the country:-

- (i) The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant' for protection and conservation of elephants and their habitats in the country.
- (ii) To reduce man-elephant conflict and to avoid retaliatory killing of elephants. Compensation is provided to local communities for loss of their property and life caused by wild elephants. The Ministry has notified enhancement of exgratia rates related to wildlife depredation vide letter No. 14-2/2011 WL-I (part) dated 9th February, 2018.
- (iii) Various other Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by this Ministry contribute to the improvement in the natural habitat of elephants by augmenting water sources, planting of fodder trees, regeneration of bamboo etc. Such schemes include Development of Wildlife Habitat and Project Tiger. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and the Rules made there under also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, including for elephants, establishment of animal rescue centres, etc.

which also contribute to reduction in HEC.

- (iv) A guideline for Management of Human Elephant Conflict has been issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017 and elephant range states have been requested for implementation of the same.
- (v) A field manual for frontline staff to manage Human Elephant Conflict was released during the 16th meeting of the Steering Committee on 29th April, 2022.
- (vi) Critical elephant habitats are notified as 'Elephant Reserve' for focus and synergy in elephant conservation and to reduce conflict. The notification is carried out with the approval of Steering Committee formed in the Ministry. So far 31 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 major elephant States.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 4 RAISED BY SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN REGARDING 'ATTACK OF WILD ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.07.2022.

Human Deaths due to elephant attack during the last three years

S.No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	6	NR
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1
3	Assam	75	91	63
4	Chhattisgarh	77	42	64
5	Jharkhand	84	74	133
6	Karnataka	29	23	17
7	Kerala	12	20	25
8	Maharashtra	1	NR	0
9	Meghalaya	4	6	2
10	Nagaland	0	0	0
11	Odisha	117	93	112
12	Tamil Nadu	58	57	37
13	Tripura	2	1	2
14	Uttar Pradesh	6	1	0
15	Uttarakhand	NR	NR	NR
16	West Bengal	116	47	77
Total		585	461	532

*NR- Information not received from States.

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 4 RAISED BY SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN REGARDING 'ATTACK OF WILD ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.07.2022.

State-wise details of Compensation paid to the persons affected by wild elephant during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant"

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70.00	61.60	27.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15.00	125.00	20.00
3.	Kerala	150.00	157.00	210.00
4.	Maharashtra	20.00	35.00	0.00*
5.	Meghalaya	15.00	0.00*	124.20
6.	Nagaland	103.00	60.00	80.00
7.	Odisha	160.00	375.00	400.00
8.	Tamil Nadu	91.00	0.00*	100.00
9.	Tripura	10.00	15.00	0.00*
10.	Uttar Pradesh	5.00	0.00*	0.00*
11.	West Bengal	50.00	38.61	0.00*

* No requisition regarding compensation was made by the State in the APO.