

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2357
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

Wild Animal Attacks

2357. DR. M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the loss of life of human being and their properties due to the often repeated attacks of wild animals who cross the forests and trespass to the human habitats in Kerala;
- (b) if so, whether the Government will take necessary steps to undo this tragic situation to save humans from the attack of all kinds of wild animals by protecting them in the forests themselves and preventing their entry to the places of human in-habitations; and
- (c) whether the Government will bring necessary legal measures for the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Incidences of wild animal attacks and crop loss due to wild animals have been reported from various parts of the country including the state of Kerala.
- (b) and (c) The steps taken by Government for protection of wildlife and management of human-wildlife conflict include the following:
 - i. A network of Protect Areas namely viz. National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitat have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
 - ii. The Central Government provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories 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 activities supported under the scheme *inter-alia* include construction/erection of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields;

- iii. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February 2021. The Advisory recommends coordinated interdepartmental action, identification of conflict hot spots, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of rapid response teams, formation of State and District level committees to review the quantum of ex-gratia relief, issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments, and provision of adequate funds for suitable portion of ex-gratia relief to be paid within 24 hours to the affected persons in the case of death and injury to persons.
- iv. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/Union Territories on 3rd June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops. It includes promotion of crops in forest fringe areas which are unpalatable to wild animals, agro forestry models which include cash crops like chillies, lemon grass, khus grass etc. suitably mixed with tree/shrub species. It also includes preparation and implementation of comprehensive long-term plan for alternate cropping by the state Agriculture/Horticulture Department under different schemes in vulnerable areas.
- v. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
