

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 200
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

Huaman-Animal Conflicts in Kerala

200. SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent surge in human-animal conflicts across the State of Kerala, as highlighted by the State Forest Department's report identifying 1004 conflict zones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of cases registered in the said State during the last one year and the current year, particularly in Kannur district;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government in providing compensation to the families who have lost their loved ones along with the amount of compensation paid to each family in the said State during the last two years and the current year, year -wise;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to prioritize and implement comprehensive measures aimed at mitigating these conflicts sustainably; and
- (e) whether the Government has made any investment in technology for early warning systems and promoting sustainable practices to foster co-existence between humans and wildlife, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) As per the report received from Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala, the State Government of Kerala has categorized 281 Panchayats as high human-wildlife conflict prone areas.

The Government of Kerala has also declared Human-Wild Animal Conflict as a "State Specific Disaster" vide Government Order GO(MS) No. 4/2024/DMD dated 07/03/2024. Besides, guidelines for effective mitigation of human-wild animal conflict in the state have also been issued.

- (b) The total number of cases of human wild animals conflicts reported in Kerala and Kannur during the last year and current year are as follows:

Year	Number of cases of human wild animal conflicts in Kerala	Number of cases of human wild animal conflicts in Kannur
2023-24	5500	337
2024-25	2630	245

- (c) The Central Government provides financial assistance to States and UTs for protection and management of wildlife including ex-gratia relief to the victims of human wild animal conflicts under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ and ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’. The amount of ex-gratia to be paid to the victims of death or permanent incapacitation has been enhanced from Rs. 5.00 lakhs to Rs. 10.00 lakhs in December 2023.

The State Government of Kerala has informed that compensation is paid to victims of wild animal attacks in the State as per ‘Kerala Rules for Payment of Compensation to Victims of Attack by Wild Animals 1980’. The details of compensation paid to the victims of human wild animal attacks during the last two years and current year is furnished below:

Year	No of Applications	Compensation Paid (Rs Lakhs)
2022-23	99	337.31
2023-24	184	709.26
2024-25	2640	313.69

- (d) and (e) The important steps taken by the government to mitigate the Human-Wildlife Conflict including promotion of sustainable practices to foster co-existence, are as follows:

- i. The Ministry has issued an advisory on 06.02.2021 to all States/UTs to deal with human wildlife conflict situations.
- ii. The Ministry has issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June 2022 to manage Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
- iii. The Ministry has released species-specific guidelines on 21.03.2023 for mitigation of Human Wildlife conflicts involving Elephant, Gaur, Leopard, snake, Crocodile, Rhesus Macaque, Wild Pig, Bear, Blue Bull and Blackbuck. The Ministry has also issued guidelines for cross cutting issues such as cooperation with media, occupational health and safety in human-wildlife conflict mitigation, crowd management and addressing health emergencies arising out of human-wildlife conflict situations.
- iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended to provide statutory status to management plans of the protected areas, mandating consultations with the concerned Gram Sabha.
- v. The Central Government provides financial assistance to State and Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ and ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’ for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country.

The activities supported include procurement of early warning systems, construction and erection of physical barriers such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields.

- vi. Advance technology like radio collaring, E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.
- vii. The state forest departments also organize periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize the general public on human-animal conflict. Further, Forest Departments are engaging with local communities as animal trackers to monitor the movement of elephants and to caution people in time.
