GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2179 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

Steps to Check Wild Animal Attacks

2179: PROF. SOUGATA RAY: ADV K. FRANCIS GEORGE: SHRI K C VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) the details of wild animal attacks on humans along with the details of loss of lives and crops during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) the details of compensation awarded to victim's family for the same during the said period, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to set up an Expert Committee to study and suggest measures to mitigate the said problem if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to protect the life and livelihood of the people/farmers living in the forest areas of the country;
- (d) whether the Government is also considering to amend the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 to delegate all the power of the Chief Wild Warden to the Chief Conservators of Forest to enable them to take immediate actions and to allow period culling of wild animals such as wild boar etc.;
- (e) whether there is any plan to declare the wild pig as vermin under Section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether there are any plans for implementing measures for the birth control of wild animals to prevent their excessive population increase; and
- (g) whether the plantation of Acasia like foreign origin plants are causing the wildlife encroachments in residential areas and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to eradicate such species of plants from the reserve forests of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) and (b) The details of human deaths as reported by States in the last five years due to attacks by elephants and tigers are at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II**, respectively.

The details of crop damage by wild animals and compensation awarded to victim's family is not collated at the Ministry level.

The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger and Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. It includes payment of ex-gratia relief for loss of life and property caused by wild animals. The details of funds released to State/ UT Governments under CSS-'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger and Elephant' during last five years are provided as **Annexure-III** and **Annexure IV** respectively.

- (c) The advisories issued by the Ministry dated 6.2.2021 and 3.6.2022 prescribe constitution of State Level Co-ordination Committees to review and monitor human wildlife conflict situations and provide guidance/ instructions to different departments for action to be taken in order to minimise/ prevent Human-Wildlife Conflict in those areas. The important steps taken by Government to prevent and manage Human-Wildlife Conflict include the following:
 - i. A network of Protected Areas namely viz., National Park, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats has 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 State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger and Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country. The activities supported under the scheme include construction/erection of physical barriers such as solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using shrubs and trees, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields.
 - iii. Under the Centrally Sponsored schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger and Elephant', financial assistance is also provided for payment of ex-gratia relief for loss of life and property caused by wild animals.
 - iv. 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 and issuing guidance/instructions for expeditious payments etc.

- v. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
- vi. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- (d) and (e) In case of wild animals falling under Schedule-II of the Act, the State Chief Wild Life Warden or the authorized officer is empowered to grant permits for hunting, if such animals have become dangerous to human life or property.

Currently, Section 11 (b) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the State Chief Wild Life Warden or an authorized officer to take necessary steps for hunting of wild pigs, if it has become dangerous to human life or property. At present, this Ministry is not considering notifying wild pigs as vermin.

In case of wild animals falling under Schedule I of the Act, the State Chief Wild Life Warden is empowered to grant such a permit, if the animal has become dangerous to human life. Presently, the Ministry is not considering to amend the Act to give powers to Chief Conservators of Forests to order the hunting of wild animals listed in Schedule I of the Act.

- (f) The Wildlife Institute of India has been assigned a study on "Population Management of Species involved in Human-Wildlife conflict" to develop a range of mitigation strategies including the applicability of immuno-contraceptive measures to manage populations of Elephants, Nilgais, Rhesus Macaque and Wild pigs.
- (g) The major reasons causing human-wildlife conflict include:
 - i. Degradation and fragmentation of the habitat, depletion of the natural prey base, resource use in the wildlife habitat by human beings for various reasons like grazing, fuel-wood, grass removal and exploitation of wild fruits, etc.
 - ii. Increase in population of wild animals due to sustained protection efforts
 - iii. Changing crop patterns, presence of stray dogs and cattle in forest fringe areas etc.

The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/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 including for removal of invasive alien species.

HUMAN CASULTIES DUE TO ELEPHANT ATTACK

S. No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	6	NR	5	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2	0	0
3	Assam	75	91	63	80	74
4	Chhattisgarh	77	42	64	69	51
5	Jharkhand	84	74	133	96	87
6	Karnataka	30	26	27	29	48
7	Kerala	13	27	35	27	22
8	Maharashtra	1	NR	0	2	5
9	Meghalaya	4	6	3	3	7
10	Nagaland	0	0	2	1	1
11	Odisha	117	93	112	148	154
12	Tamil Nadu	58	57	37	43	61
13	Tripura	2	1	2	2	1
14	Uttar Pradesh	6	1	0	4	4
15	Uttarakhand	NR	NR	NR	4	8
16	West Bengal	116	47	77	97	99
Total		587	471	557	610	628

^{*}NR- Information not received from State

DETAILS OF HUMAN DEATHS BY TIGER ATTACK

S. No.	State	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	NR
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	NR
3	Assam	0	0	0	0	NR
4	Bihar	0	1	4	9	NR
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	3
6	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	NR
7	Karnataka	4	0	1	1	8
8	Madhya Pradesh	1	11	2	3	10
9	Maharashtra	26	25	32	82	35
10	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	NR
11	Orissa	0	0	0	0	NR
12	Rajasthan	5	0	0	0	NR
13	Tamil Nadu	0	1	3	0	1
14	Telangana	0	2	0	0	NR
15	Uttar Pradesh	8	4	11	11	25
16	Uttarakhand	2	0	1	3	NR
17	West Bengal	3	5	5	1	NR
	TOTAL	49	49	59	110	82

NR – Not reported.

Details of funds released to State/ UT Governments under CSS-'Development of Wildlife Habitats' during last five years.

(₹. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	A& N Islands	132.64	0	135.77	25.125	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	512.69	312.5865	419.80617	276.44062	672.462
4	Assam	164.26	0	0	209.1464	565.10763
5	Bihar	148.142	205.1644	410.85952	0	336.37223
6	Chandigarh	0	25.16	0	21.6241	16.498
7	Chhattisgarh	310.0318	104.35936	274.5903	104.457	116.24868
8	Goa	111.654	0	0	0	50.10
9	Gujarat	0	124.5849	0	200.01	206.99
10	Haryana	237.6078	18.2212	127.331	30.1575	167.85
11	Himachal Pradesh	375.76554	187.63518	197.09452	114.3205	94.15328
12	Jammu & Kashmir	0	80.62863	0	0	69.57972
13	Jharkhand	93.96	198.2265	79.53315	0	14.91025
14	Karnataka	739.046	586.12634	1256.59314	291.71146	581.52346
15	Kerala	845.026	731.2845	295.7737	224.4735	921.0361
16	Madhya Pradesh	629.266	801.60127	389.34906	265.5508	471.81959
17	Maharashtra	715.781	146.08	0	350.3879	554.69645
18	Manipur	396.455	241.12	142.50646	180.64379	231.72407
19	Meghalaya	238.839	263.507	530.51253	0	243.56611
20	Mizoram	431.79	339.60855	198.9678	190.1977	304.207
21	Nagaland	953.69	260.00105	342.0315	725.6565	1306.3275
22	Odisha	701.504	697.50	726.80273	967.4976	612.81161
23	Rajasthan	741.315	309.12634	1007.64845	86.78886	0
24	Sikkim	557.355	349.623	182.97174	239.66048	187.03237
25	Tamil Nadu	409.505	334.0354	390.75715	132.95205	373.8902
26	Telangana	0	36.59304	0	0	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	426.251	312.9244	169.06261	266.7472	290.64425
28	Uttarakhand	1401.19	441.61031	226.34415	212.9662	498.497
29	West Bengal	891.073	710.61953	757.25599	201.30866	385.29988
30	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	5.22
31	Lakshadweep	193.272	462.409	462.086	269.9055	124.655
32	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0
33	Tripura	90.317	260.679	0	0	186.05514
34	Ladakh UT	0	223.17292	31.95	61.11591	0.06
	Grand Total	12448.42614	8764.18832	8755.59767	5648.84523	9589.33752

Details of funds released to State/ UT Governments under CSS-'Project Tiger and Elephant' during last five years. (₹. in lakhs)

Sl.	State	2019-20 2020-21			2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
N 0.		Project Tiger	Project Elephant	Project Tiger	Project Elephant	Project Tiger	Project Elephant	Project Tiger	Project Elepha nt	*Project Tiger & Elephant
1	Andhra Pradesh	114.48	127.03	266.51	77.28	292.11	20.5565	0.00	0.00	149.421
2	Arunachal Pradesh	846.31	103.2683 1	803.76	282.256	869.08	157.7615	0.00	26.8875	1119.9145
3	Assam	2198.76	-	2513.90	35.284	1476.75	126.716	336.22	167.4	2619.3078 4
4	Bihar	562.84	57.02752	628.89	39.08	552.72	-	0.00	0.00	308.9825
5	Chhattisgarh	358.53	-	471.16	-	355.85	24.785	82.88	0.00	292.855
6	Haryana	0.00	16.80	0.00	11.04	0.00	4.2345	0.00	17.4	26.1
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.61
8	Jharkhand	1432.07	161.4443 8	128.45	111.8652 2	195.06	86.682	17.26	78.05	405.785
9	Karnataka	2252.03	412.4823 9	2118.01	330.4037 6	2956.70	261.195	235.24	97.8453	2613.0834
10	Kerala	607.07	432.132	402.88	574.56	868.78	580.96765	0.00	270.09	996.22425
11	Madhya Pradesh	3501.91	13.695	2551.26	-	3523.52	12.613	1172.51	11.388	4303.794
12	Maharashtra	7220.39	44.1944	3098.03	17.98	2991.06	-	0.00	28.524	2614.4516 7
13	Manipur	0.00	10.944	0.00	-	0.00	5.40	0.00	0.00	14.121
14	Meghalaya	0.00	177.8976	0.00	9.36	0.00	141.75	0.00	32.14	65.25
15	Mizoram	337.70	-	161.53	-	374.13	-	0.00	0.00	144
16	Nagaland	0.00	213.9498	0.00	92.50	0.00	279.759	0.00	235.575	337.77
17	Odisha	1303.32	387.036	680.07	577.99	1056.86	567.045	190.27	212.769 5	1012.5876 4
18	Rajasthan	1203.19	35.28	1008.89	-	841.05	15.18	0.00	6.18609	968.3004
19	Tamil Nadu	1586.91	275.1576	1336.14	-	1576.22	181.8464	0.00	85.9405	2547.9664 8
20	Telangana	359.91	-	351.97	-	543.26	-	0.00	0	323.308
21	Tripura	0.00	45.38	0.00	24.71	-	-	0.00	7.36516	27.0855
22	Uttarakhand	1242.49	417.312	1671.30	204.85	1463.71	244.12375	0.00	18.7415	1495.5241
23	Uttar Pradesh	2289.18	37.74	923.29	-	1304.85	45.993	0.00	9.858	1031.9767
24	West Bengal	758.47	113.254	333.96	64.1958	708.28	87.8717	0.00	30.05	522.58101
		28175.5	3082.025	19450.0 0	2453.355	21949.9	2844.48	2034.38	1336.21 1	23960

^{*}Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Elephant and Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger have been merged and now known as Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger & Elephant