GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2232 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

Tiger and Leopard Menace in Uttar Pradesh

2232 SHRI ANAND BHADAURIA:

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

- (a) the number of persons injured/died due to tiger and leopard attacks in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the tiger and leopard menace and danger to lives and properties in Lakhimpur Kheri and Sitapur districts in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to save people from leopard and tigers in adjoining districts of National Parks?

ANSWER

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

(a) The details of human deaths by tiger attack as reported by States is as under:-

S.	State	2021	2022	2023	2024
No.					
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	-	0
2	Arunachal				
	Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	-	0
4	Bihar	4	9	-	1
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	3	0
6	Jharkhand	0	0	-	0
7	Karnataka	1	1	8	1
8	Kerala	0	0	0	0
9	Madhya				
	Pradesh	2	3	10	3
10	Maharashtra	32	82	35	17
11	Mizoram	0	0	0	-
12	Orissa	0	0	0	0
13	Rajasthan	0	0	-	0
14	Tamil Nadu	3	0	1	0
15	Telangana	0	0		0
16	Uttar Pradesh	11	11	25	10
17	Uttarakhand	1	3	-	6
18	West Bengal	5	1	-	-
TOTAL		59	110	82	38

Human deaths due to leopard attack are not collated at the Government of India level.

- (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Union Government are aware of the tiger and leopard menace in Lakhimpur District of Uttar Pradesh and is taking actions for mitigating human-wildlife conflicts.
- (c) & (d) The Government of India, through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, has advocated a three pronged strategy to manage human-wildlife negative interactions as follows:-
 - (i) Material and logistical support: Funding support through the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, is provided to tiger reserves for acquiring capacity in terms of infrastructure and material, to deal with tigers dispersing out of source areas. These are solicited by tiger reserves through an Annual Plan of Operation (APO) every year which stems out from an overarching Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP), mandated under Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. *Inter alia*, activities such as payment of ex-gratia and compensation, periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general populace on man-animal conflict, dissemination of information through various forms of media, procurement of immobilization equipment, drugs, training and capacity building of forest staff to deal with conflict events are generally solicited.
 - (ii) Restricting habitat interventions: Based on the carrying capacity of tigers in a tiger reserve, habitat interventions are restricted through an overarching TCP. In case tiger numbers are at carrying capacity levels, it is advised that habitat interventions should be limited so that there is no excessive spill over of wildlife including tigers thereby minimizing man-animal conflict. Further, in buffer areas around tiger reserves, habitat interventions are restricted such that they are sub-optimal vis-à-vis the core/critical tiger habitat areas, judicious enough to facilitate dispersal to other rich habitat areas only.
 - (iii) Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs): The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued following three SOPs to deal with human-animal conflict, which are available in public domain:
 - i. To deal with emergency arising due to straying of tigers in human dominated landscapes
 - ii. To deal with tiger depredation on livestock
 - iii. For active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level.

The three SOPs *inter alia* include the issue of managing dispersing tigers, managing livestock kills so as to reduce conflict as well as relocating tigers from source areas to areas where density of tiger is low, so that conflict in rich source areas does not occur.

Also as per Tiger Conservation Plans need based and site-specific management interventions are undertaken by the tiger reserves for improving the quality of wildlife habitat and funding support for these activities is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.
