

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2242
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

Crop Damage due to Wild Animal Attacks

2242. SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the losses caused to the crops of farmers by the wild animals in the State of Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some other preventive measures have also been taken by the Government to safeguard crops from wild animals; and
- (d) whether there is any scheme of the Government to capture such animals in large numbers and transfer them to protected forests?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) The protection and management of wildlife, including human wildlife conflict management is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. Details of losses caused to the crops of farmers by the wild animals are not collated in the Ministry.
- (c) and (d) The important steps taken by Government for protection of wildlife and to safeguard crops from wild animals include the following:
 - i. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. It includes compensation for depredation by wild animals including cattle lifting, crop damage, loss of life and property.
 - ii. The activities supported under the Schemes *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; improvement of wildlife habitat of wild animals by augmenting the availability of

food and water in forest areas to reduce the entry of animals from forests to habitations and setting up of anti-depredation squads to drive away problematic animals. State Governments also provide relief from their own funds for damage to crops by wild animals.

- iii. The Ministry has enhanced the amount of ex-gratia relief in case of death or permanent incapacitation due to wild animal attacks during December 2023. At present the amount of ex-gratia relief payable under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’, ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’ is as follows:

Sl.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
i.	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs.10.00 lakh
ii.	Grievous injury	Rs.2.00 lakh
iii.	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs.25,000/-per person
iv.	Loss of property/crops	State/UT government may adhere to the cost norms prescribed by them.

- iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act empowers the Chief Wild Life Warden for capture and translocation of wild animals to alternate suitable habitats as part of scientific management of wildlife.
