

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3243
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

Leopard Attacks

3243. SHRI BAJRANG MANOHAR SONWANE:
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SHRI MOHITEPATIL DHAIRYASHEELRAJSINH:
SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in leopard attacks on humans in recent years;
- (b) if so, the number of incidents of leopard attacks on humans that have been reported in the State of Maharashtra during the last year and the steps taken by the Union Government to address these incidents;
- (c) whether the Government has provided any compensation or assistance to the victims of leopard attacks and their families;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study or assessment to determine the reasons behind the increasing incidents of leopard attacks in the said State and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps proposed by the Government to ensure the conservation and protection of leopard populations while addressing human-wildlife conflict issues; and
- (f) whether the Government is considering to impose restrictions on the reproduction of leopards in the said State to manage their population growth and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts especially involving leopard and if so, the details of the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b) The management and protection of wildlife including management of human-wildlife conflicts is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/ Union Territory Governments. The details regarding the number of attacks by wild animals including leopards on humans are not collated in the Ministry. As per

the information received from the State Government of Maharashtra, the details of human deaths due to leopard attacks is as follows:

Year	Number of cases of human deaths
2019-20	07
2020-21	33
2021-22	26
2022-23	18
2023-24	15

The important steps taken by Government of India to manage and mitigate human-animal conflict in the country include:

- i) Ministry has issued holistic advisories and guidelines to the States and Union Territory Governments to deal with human-wildlife conflict situations dated 6.2.2021 and 3.6.2022.
- ii) Species specific guidelines for mitigation of conflicts arising from various wild animals namely Elephant, Gaur, Leopard, Snake, Crocodile, Rhesus Macaque, Wild Pig, Bear, Blue Bull and Blackbuck on 21.03.2023.
- iii) Guidelines for cross cutting issues such as cooperation between the forest and media sector; occupational health and safety in the context of human-wildlife conflict mitigation; crowd management in human-wildlife conflict related situations and addressing health emergencies and potential health risks arising out of human-wildlife conflict situations on 21.03.2023.
- iv) Financial assistance is provided by the Ministry to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored schemes – ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’, ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’ for various interventions including animal proof fencing, anti-depredation squads, rapid response teams, ex-gratia relief, technology based animal tracking etc.
- v) Advance technology like radio collaring, E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.
- vi) The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities, which help the forest departments in protection of wildlife.
- vii) The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict.
- viii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.

- (c) The Ministry has enhanced the amount of ex-gratia relief in case of death or permanent incapacitation due to attacks by wild animals including leopards 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.

- (d) The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has undertaken a research project titled 'Understanding Population Dynamics, Space Use, Movement and Diet of Leopards in Junnar Taluka, Maharashtra for Human Leopard Conflict Mitigation' from 2019-20 to 2023-24.
- (e) The important steps taken by the Government for the conservation and protection of leopard populations in the country are as follows:
- i. Leopard is listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby providing the highest degree of protection to the species.
 - ii. A network of Protected Areas namely viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals including for leopards and their habitats.
 - iii. In order to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - iv. Financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger and Elephant' for protection and conservation of wild animals including leopards and their habitats.
- (f) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 under section 11(1)(a) empowers the Chief Wild Life Warden to grant permit to any person to capture, tranquilise or translocate any wild animal listed in Schedule I of the Act including leopards which has become dangerous to human life. The Chief Wild Life Warden may also permit killing of such animal if it cannot be captured, tranquilised or translocated.
