

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1760
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

Leopard attacks in Maharashtra

1760. ADV GOWAAL KAGADA PADAVI:

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

- (a) whether the State of Maharashtra is having the second highest number of leopards after Madhya Pradesh as per the report of the Ministry released on February 29, 2024, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the number of leopards as well as the number of deaths of farm animals and humans due to leopards is also increasing rapidly in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has accurate data in this regard, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the State Governments of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are facilitating leopards movement from their State to Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent human deaths by leopards; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce human-animal conflicts and to ensure peaceful co-existence?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the fifth cycle of leopard population estimation carried out in 2022, Madhya Pradesh has the largest population of leopards in the country followed by Maharashtra. As per the estimation, the number of leopards assessed in Madhya Pradesh is 3907 and while in Maharashtra 1985 leopards were estimated.
- (b) to (d) 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 deaths of farm animals and humans due to leopards 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

(e) and (f) The important steps taken by the Government to manage human-wildlife conflicts including those involving leopards are as follows:

- i. The Ministry has issued an advisory on 06.02.2021 to all states/UTs to deal with human wildlife 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 Ministry 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. Raid Response Teams are also deployed to mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict.
- vi. Advance technology like radio collaring, digital sensor walls and E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.
- vii. The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation; training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict.
