GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 213 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

Menace of Wild Boars

213. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B: SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) the steps taken to address the growing menace of wild boars in the agricultural regions of Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai and Virudhunagar districts in the State of Tamil Nadu, which are causing extensive crop damage;
- (b) whether the Government has considered including wild boars in the non-protected species list, as has been done in the State of Kerala, to enable better population control measures, such as culling or relocation, to mitigate the damage caused to crops in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the details of compensation and relief measures proposed for farmers who have suffered substantial financial losses due to wild boar damage to their crops in the above said districts;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that State authorities, including the Forest, Revenue, and Agriculture departments, collaborate effectively to implement a long-term solution for managing the wild boar menace in Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) the details of immediate actions taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide protective measures in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As informed by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, following steps are taken to address human-wild pig conflicts in the districts of Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai and Virudhunagar:
 - i. Monthly Farmer's grievance day meetings are conducted to address wildlife related issues.
 - ii. Prompt visits by the forest department staff at the sites where crop damage due to wild pigs is reported.
 - iii. Speedy action for disposal of ex-gratia relief payments.
- (b) Wild pig is listed in the Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Chief Wild Life Warden or the authorised officer in this behalf are empowered to permit any person to hunt any wild animal specified in Schedule II which has become dangerous to human life or property including crops.

- (c) As informed by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, no cases of crop damage due wild pigs were reported from Sivaganga district during the last three years. An amount of Rs. 13.495 Lakhs and Rs. 5.383 Lakhs was paid as ex-gratia relief for the crop damages caused by wild pigs in Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram districts respectively in the last three years.
- (d) and (e) The important steps taken by the Government to address human-animal conflicts in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu are as follows:
 - i. 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 expedited payments etc.
 - ii. The Ministry has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs during June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
 - Species specific guidelines for mitigation of conflicts arising from various wild animals including Wild Pig have been issued by the Ministry during March 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. The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict.
