

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2738
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

Steps to protect Wildlife Corridors from Intrusion

2738. DR. AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is cognizant that rising human-elephant conflicts across the country can be traced to a multitude of factors that include agricultural expansion, industrial intrusion, mining, infrastructural activities and even climate change; and
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that wildlife corridors are safe from intrusion and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) and (b) There have been reports of human-wildlife conflicts, including those involving elephants, from several parts of the country. The Government has undertaken various measures to address these issues, which, *inter-alia*, includes the following:
 - 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.
 - 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.
- vi. Advance technology like radio collaring, digital sensor walls and E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.
- vii. The State Forest Departments organizes periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize the general public on human-animal conflict. Further, Forest Departments are engaging with local communities as animal trackers to monitor the movement of elephants and to caution people in time.
