

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5014
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026

Grants for Junnar Leopard Conservation and Rescue Centre

5014. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of the Project Leopard guidelines in the high-density agricultural landscapes of Shirur, where traditional forest-management models are failing;
- (b) the status of the central grant for the Junnar Leopard Conservation and Rescue Centre and whether there is a plan to upgrade it to a National Centre for Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation; and
- (c) the status of the Environment Clearance for the critical infrastructure projects in the Khed-Rajgurunagar belt that have been currently stalled due to overlapping Eco-Sensitive Zones?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b) Protection and management of wildlife, including management of human wildlife conflict is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Government. The Ministry provides financial assistance to the States Government and Union Territories Administrations, including State of Maharashtra, under the Centrally sponsored scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitats, for conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats as per the Annual Plan of Operations received. The activities supported for the human wildlife conflict management includes strengthening of Rapid response teams, Early warning system, Solar fences, awareness, capacity building of staff, eco development activities etc. Hence, the state government needs to study and implement site-specific measures to mitigate conflict situations. Similarly, for management of wildlife conflict situations arising due to leopards, in human dominated agricultural landscapes such as Shirur, community-oriented approaches tailored for such human-dominated ecosystems need to be adopted by the State Government.

As informed by the Central Zoo Authority, Manikdoh Leopard Rescue Centre, Junnar is a recognized zoo, and there is no such proposal to upgrade it to a National Centre for Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation.

- (c) No, proposal for environment clearance in the Khed-Rajgurunagar belt has been received in the Ministry.
