

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5057
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026

SOP for Man-Animal Conflicts

5057. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the rising incidents of human-wildlife conflict across States, particularly elephant-related deaths, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether any Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been issued at the national level for prevention and management of man-animal conflicts, if so, the details and implementation status thereof;
- (c) whether habitat fragmentation due to mining, highways and infrastructure projects has been identified as a major cause of wildlife movement into human settlements, if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish elephant rescue centres and trained Quick Response Teams in vulnerable States, if so, the details and timelines therefor;
- (e) whether compensation mechanisms for victims of wildlife attacks vary significantly across States, if so, whether uniform national guidelines are proposed and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether dedicated funds have been allocated for protection of elephant corridors and restoration of natural habitats, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (f) The management of wildlife including mitigation of human-animal conflicts is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. The State Government/UT Administration are the first responders to any conflict situation and they maintain the details of the conflict along with the species involved.

The important steps taken by the Government to manage the human-wildlife conflicts include the following:

- i. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry on 6th February, 2021. The Ministry has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June 2022 to manage Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops. 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 for its expeditious payments etc.
- ii. 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 taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach for addressing human-wildlife conflicts. 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. Moreover, Field Manual for Frontline Staff on Human-Elephant Conflict Management, has also been released by the Ministry. Ministry has also released Guidelines on Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts on Linear Infrastructures on Wildlife.

- iii. 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.
- iv. The Section 11 (1) (a) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, empowers the State Chief Wild Life Wardens to grant permits for hunting animals falling in Schedule I of the Act, which become dangerous to human life. Further, the Section 11 (1) (b) of the Act empowers State Chief Wild Life Warden or any authorized officer to grant permits for hunting of wild animals falling under Schedule-II of the Act, if such animals have become dangerous to human life or property.
- v. A network of protected areas namely, 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 and their habitats.
- vi. The Ministry provides financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations 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, compensation for depredation by wild animals including cattle lifting, crop damage, loss of life and property. Rapid Response Teams are also deployed to mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict. Further, the Ministry enhanced the amount of ex-gratia relief in case of death or permanent incapacitation due to wild animal attacks in December 2023 from Rs. 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs under these Schemes, subject to availability of funds, and the payment of which is also governed by State specific guidelines/ provisions made in this regard.

The details are given in the table below:

S. No.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
i.	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs.10.00 lakhs
ii.	Grievous injury	Rs.2.00 lakhs
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.

The States/Union Territories make ex-gratia payments for loss of livestock, crops and human life including injuries due to human-wildlife conflicts as per the norms, which vary in States and UTs.

- vii. Ministry also supports the focused species conservation for the 24 identified critically endangered species namely Snow Leopard, Great Indian Bustard (including Floricans), Dolphin, Hangul, Nilgiri Tahr, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-Antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer, Jerdon's Courser, Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, Red Panda, Caracal, Gharial and Sloth Bear under the species recovery programme component of the centrally sponsored scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitats.
- viii. Advance technology like radio collaring, digital sensor walls and E-surveillance are also used in human wildlife conflict mitigation.
- ix. The Ministry provides support to State Governments to organize awareness generation, training and capacity building programmes on human-wildlife conflict. The State Forest Departments work with the local people to address the Human Wildlife Conflict issues through periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on human-animal conflict including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, State Forest Departments engage with local communities to monitor the movement of some wildlife species and to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life, property and wildlife. The Ministry has also taken an initiative for establishment of the Centre of Excellence for the Human – wildlife Conflict management, at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), WII -South India Centre at Coimbatore.
- x. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India, in accordance with Section 38O (1) (g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, have identified 32 major tiger corridors in the country. The NTCA Guidelines (2012) and Standard Operating Procedures guide tiger and habitat management. Similarly, the Ministry has also identified 150 elephant corridors in the country in 2023. The Ministry along with the State Governments and UT administrations prepares Regional Action Plan to address the long term conservation and management of elephants in the contiguous landscape.
