

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1381
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
DAMAGE TO CROPS
Patle Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of killing and damage to crops and human lives by wild animals including elephants, bears have been reported from various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has made any provision for providing compensation for loss of human lives and crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)&(b) Reports about incidents of damage to crops and human lives by wild animals like bears, blue bulls, elephants, leopards, monkeys, tigers, wild boars, etc. in various States/Union Territories of the country are received in the Ministry from time to time. However, the State/Union Territory-wise details of such incidents are not collated in the Ministry.

(c)&(d) The Central Government provides financial assistance to the States/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' to, inter alia, make payment of ex-gratia relief in respect of damage to crops and loss of human lives suffered by the victims of depredations/attacks by wild animals. The Ministry has increased the amount of ex-gratia relief payable to the victims of predation/depredation by wild animals, as follows:

Sl. No.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
---------	---	----------------------------

(a) Death or permanent incapacitation Rs.200,000/-

(b) Grievous injury 30% of (a)

(c) Minor injury Cost of treatment

(d) Loss of property Value of loss/damage as assessed by authorized officer

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Central Government to mitigate the human-wildlife conflict:1. Financial assistance is provided by the Ministry to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' inter alia for the following activities:

- a. Improvement of the habitat of wild animals by augmenting the availability of food and water in forest areas to reduce the migration of animals from forests to habitations.
- b. Construction of physical barriers like boundary walls and solar-powered electric fences in sensitive areas to prevent wild animal attacks.
- c. Payment of ex-gratia relief to the victims of wild animal attacks and depredation.
- d. Development of necessary infrastructure and support facilities for tranquilization of the identified problematic animals and their relocation to the natural habitat or rehabilitation in rescue centers.

- e. Setting up of anti-depredation squads to drive away problematic animals.
 - f. Setting up of patrolling squads to track the movement of wild animals especially elephants and to inform the local residents about their presence.
2. The Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States/Union Territories are empowered to permit hunting of identified problematic animals under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, if required.
 3. Assistance can also be used to launch programmes to sensitize people and create awareness about the Do's and Don'ts in case of incidents of wild animals scare and attacks.
 4. Eco-development activities are undertaken in villages around Protected Areas to elicit the cooperation of communities in management of the Protected Areas, which includes actions to address the grievances of people regarding human-wildlife conflicts.
 5. Training programmes are conducted for forest and police staff to address the problems of human-wildlife conflict.