

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
HUMAN ANIMAL CONFLICTS
Singh Shri N.Dharam

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

- (a) the details of elephant corridors set up in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the wild animals including elephants entering into villages and causing huge damage to human life thereby creating mess in the human habitations and also causing damage to crops and properties in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish more elephant corridors in the country to curb the rising incidents of such conflicts; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for Project Elephant for this purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 154 BY SHRI N. DHARAM SINGH, MP REGARDING "HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICTS" DUE FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2013.

(a) There is no practice of setting up of elephant corridors in the country. However, as a part of the Centrally-sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant" (CSS-PE) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, 138, 28 and 17 State, inter-State and international elephant corridors have been identified, respectively. The State-wise details in this regard are at Annexure I. Activities qualifying for Central-assistance in these areas under the Scheme are the following:-

- i. Improvement of habitats / corridors by enrichment plantation/eco restoration
- ii. Removal of invasive species
- iii. Creation of water bodies/ salt licks
- iv. Fire protection measures
- v. Eco-restoration of corridors/migration routes and paths including acquisition and relocation
- vi. Soil and water conservation measures

The elephant bearing States have been requested to secure the identified corridors and financial assistance is provided to them for this purpose under CSS-PE.

(b)&(c) Yes sir. Taking note of the human-animal conflict the Government of India has taken the following measures to mitigate the problem.

- i. Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for improvement of forest and wildlife areas like the national parks and sanctuaries to augment food and water availability in forests which can reduce migration of animals from forests to the habitations.
- ii. Construction of barriers like boundary walls and solar-powered electric fences around the sensitive areas to prevent wild animal attacks. These activities are also eligible for Central assistance.
- iii. Development of necessary infrastructure and support facilities for immobilization of the identified problematic animals through tranquilization, and their relocation to the natural habitat or rehabilitation in rescue centers.

iv. The Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States/Union Territories are empowered to permit hunting of problematic animals under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

v. Programmes are launched to sensitize people and create awareness about the Do's and Don'ts in case of scare and attacks of wild animals.

vi. 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.

(d) There is no proposal to establish any elephant corridor in the country.

(e) Details of State-wise release of funds under Centrally-sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant", which is a comprehensive programme for conservation of elephants and includes assistance for securing of elephant habitats and corridors, during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure II.