

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.846
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2018

Rehabilitation of Animals in Natural Habitats

846. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to save wild animals from road accidents and secure crops damaged by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to rehabilitate these animals back to their natural habitat/places or to hand over them to zoo; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a)&(b) The Ministry has already initiated preventive measures to save wild animals from road accidents and secure crop damage by them. The important action in this regard includes:
- i. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Tiger Conservation Authority, National Highway Authority and World Bank has published a document namely 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' to assist the project agencies of linear infrastructure in designing the linear infrastructure in a manner which will reduce human-animal conflict in the areas where these linear infrastructures are passing through Protected Areas and other wildlife areas. The Standing Committee of NBWL in its 47th Meeting held on 25th January, 2018 recommended that in future user agencies involved in linear infrastructure development should take into consideration the advisory made in the guidelines of the Wildlife Institute of India while designing the linear infrastructures inside the Protected Areas, notified Eco Sensitive Zone area around PAs and in future linear infrastructure proposals by project proponents would be accompanied by an animal passage plan prepared, if required, on the basis of these WII guidelines and in consultation with the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

ii. The Ministry through its various Centrally Sponsored Schemes provides funds to States and UTs for carrying various activities for habitat improvement works namely restoration of natural water bodies, creation of artificial ponds, waterholes, augmenting food/fodder sources at various places within Protected Areas and outside Protected Areas to prevent wild animals venturing outside forest areas. Compensation to crop damage is also provided to the affected persons in the same scheme.

(c)&(d) Subject to a health assessment, wild animals are rehabilitated back into the wild.
