

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 183
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.06.2019

Damage to Crops by Wild Animals

183. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:
SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:
SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:

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

- (a) whether the Government provides compensation to farmers for the losses suffered by them as a result of damage to crops by stray and wild animals;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme being implemented for the same and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the quantum of loss of farmer's crops by wild animals during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether farmers are facing huge losses every year as a result of destruction of crops by wild animals and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other remedial measures taken by the Government to protect crops from the wild animals?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) & (b) The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats. This assistance also includes compensation for depredation by wild animals including cattle lifting, crop damage, loss of life and property.
- (c) & (d) The management of such conflicts are handled by concern State/UT Governments. The quantum of loss of farmer's crops and the details of losses every year as a result of destruction of crops by wild animals are not collated by the Ministry.
- (e) The remedial measures taken by the Government to protect crops from the wild animals are as follows:
 - i. Construction/erecting of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary wall etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop field.
 - ii. The Ministry has recently, increased the *Ex-gratia* payment in connection with wildlife depredation as follows:

Sl. No.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of <i>ex-gratia</i> relief
(a)	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs. 5,00,000/-
(b)	Grievous injury	Rs. 2,00,000/-
(c)	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs. 25000/- per person
(d)	Loss of property/crops	State/UT Government may adhere to the cost norms prescribed them.

- iii. The Ministry has approved a project for undertaking 'Immuno-contraceptive measures' for controlling the population of wild animals responsible for damage and destruction of crops.
- iv. A network of Protected Areas namely viz., National Park, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitat have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- v. To mitigate wildlife conflict along the linear infrastructures like rail tracks, roads/highways and power transmission lines passing through the Protected Areas and other wildlife rich areas, Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife has recommended that all linear infrastructure development Agencies, shall submit wild animals passage plan based on the WII Guideline "Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of linear infrastructure on Wildlife". These guideline suggest for modification in the designs of the linear infrastructures by way of providing eco-friendly structure which will ensure safe movement of wildlife across these linear infrastructures.
- vi. Periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize guide and advise the general public on man-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media
