

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 387
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

Human-animal conflict

387. SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to amend relevant sections of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 to address the escalating human-animal conflict in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any initiative to find a permanent solution for animal nuisance in residential and agriculture areas in various States, particularly in Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Section 11 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the State Chief Wild Life Warden for management of human wildlife conflict situations. Presently, the Ministry does not have any proposal to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (c) and (d) Management of wildlife and their habitat is primarily the responsibility of the concerned States/Union Territories. The important steps taken by Government for protection of wildlife and to address human-animal conflicts include the following:
 - i. The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments 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 under the schemes include construction/erection of physical barriers such as solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields.
 - ii. An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February 2021. 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, and issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments etc.

- iii. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflict including damage to crops.
- iv. The Ministry has also issued species-specific guidelines to deal with human-wildlife conflict situations on 21.03.2023.
- v. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- vi. 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.
