

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 394**  
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

**Attacks by Wild Animal**

394. SHRI PRAJWAL REVANNA:  
MS. RAMAYA HARIDAS:

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

- whether both the Central and State Governments have failed to prevent/check increasing deaths due to wild elephants attack in Sakaleshpur, Belur Alur Taluk of Hassan district in Karnataka and if so, the details of action taken to prevent this menace;
- the details of deaths and compensation paid during the last three years;
- the details of elephants captured and rehabilitated during the last three years;
- whether the Government proposes to take steps for a permanent solution to the wild animal attacks on people, specially of leopard, elephants, monkey, wild boar, etc. in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- whether the Government proposes to provide adequate compensation to the families of the people who lost their lives, to the people who got injured and to the farmers whose crops were destroyed by the wild animals in the country, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)to(e) As per the information received from the State of Karnataka, the details of human deaths occurred due to elephant attack alongwith the details of compensation paid, in Sakleshpura, Belur Alur talukas of Hassan district, Karnataka are as follows:

<b>District, State</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of human deaths</b>	<b>Compensation paid (Rs. In Lakhs)</b>
Sakleshpura, Alur, Belur taluks of Hassan Lok Sabha Constituency, Karnataka	2020-21	5	37.50
	2021-22	5	37.50
	2022-23	4	30.00
	2023-24	5	75.00

The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs Administration. The Government of Karnataka has taken following measures for prevention of human-animal conflict:

- (i) The Government of Karnataka has doubled the compensation from 7.50 Lakhs to 15.00 Lakhs, to the legal heir of the person died by wild animal attack, vide order dated 15.12.2022.
- (ii) The Government of Karnataka has captured 14 elephants during the year 2020-21 to 2021-24.
- (iii) Districts Elephant Task Force constituted to tackle human-elephant conflict in the Hassan District on 20.11.2022.
- (iv) 9.659 Km of rail barricade and 14.00 Km of tentacle fencing completed during the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 in Sakleshpura, Belur Alur talukas of Hassan district, Karnataka.
- (v) Anti-Depredation Camps & Rapid Response Teams are constituted in the sensitive areas to mitigate the conflict.
- (vi) Elephant task force is headed by DCF along with 01 ACF, 01 RFO, 04 Dy RFO, 08 Forest Guard & 32 out Sourced Watchers.
- (vii) Elephant task force has Control Room functioning 24x7 at Sakaleshpura & complaints are received from Alur, Belur, Sakleshpura & Yeslur range and immediate action is being taken for its redressal. Record are being maintained regarding the calls received & action taken.
- (viii) Elephant task force is monitoring the movement of Wild Elephants in village limits and driving them back to the forests, wherever the wild elephant's movement is seen in village limits.
- (ix) Along with Elephant Task Force staff, Rapid Response Team (RRT) regular front line staff is working to safe guard people and property.
- (x) Advance warning system is established by sending SMS, Whatsapp messages, mic announcement etc. to make villages aware about Elephant movement. More than 20 Kms. rails barricades by using used railway tracks, have been constructed in Alur range, Doddabetta Forest region to prevent the entry of Elephants from other districts using the State Government funds.
- (xi) To secure and protect the agricultural crops Government of Karnataka provides subsidy for construction of solar power fences under which 50 percent subsidy is provided to framers for protection of crops.
- (xii) Awareness program is conducted in public areas, schools & colleges.

In addition, the following measures taken by Ministry also help in mitigation of human-animal conflict:-

- (i) The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger & Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country.
- (ii) Various other Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by this Ministry contribute to the improvement in the natural habitat of elephants by augmenting water sources, planting of fodder trees, regeneration of bamboo etc. Such schemes include Development of Wildlife Habitat and Project Tiger. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and the Rules made there under also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, including for elephants, establishment of animal rescue centres, etc. which also contribute to reduction in HEC.
- (iii) 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, issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments, and provision of adequate funds for

suitable portion of ex-gratia relief to be paid within 24 hours to the affected persons in the case of death and injury to persons.

- (iv) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflicts including damage to crops. It includes promotion of crops in forest fringe areas which are unpalatable to wild animals, agro forestry models which include cash crops like chillies, lemon grass, khus grass etc. suitably mixed with tree/shrub species. It also includes preparation and implementation of comprehensive long-term plan for alternate cropping by the state Agriculture/Horticulture Department under different schemes in vulnerable areas.
- (v) The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest, and Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank Group has published a document namely 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' (2016) to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railways lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.
- (vi) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in coordination with the State Forest Departments, have ground-validated 150 elephant corridors across 15 elephant range states (i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal) in India and informed the State Governments/UT Administrations to take necessary steps to protect and conserve the elephant corridors.
- (vii) A field manual for frontline staff to manage Human Elephant Conflict was released during the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.
- (viii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- (ix) Ministry also released a Guidelines for Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation-Taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach (2023) for addressing human-elephant conflicts.
- (x) A Capacity Building Workshop on "Mainstreaming Management of The Elephant Reserves" was conducted on 13 -15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xi) A Capacity Building Workshop on "Minimizing the Impact of the Railway on Elephants and Other Wildlife" for the officials of Indian Railways was conducted on 23-25<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xii) A Capacity Building Workshop on "Mainstreaming Management of The Elephant Reserves was conducted on 28- 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

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