

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2165**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

**Monkey Menace in Telangana**

2165. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:

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

- (a) the specific measures being implemented to address the growing menace of monkeys, particularly in the State of Telangana, where it is causing significant losses to farmers and impacting agricultural productivity; and
- (b) whether the Government has allocated dedicated funding to support State Governments in implementing effective control and mitigation measures for this issue and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) and (b) The important steps taken for protection and conservation of wildlife including management of monkey menace across the country including Telangana include:
  - i. 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.
  - ii. Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) have been notified around many National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to further strengthen conservation of wildlife.
  - iii. 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 scheme include construction/erection of physical barriers such as solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields.
  - iv. Under the Centrally Sponsored schemes – 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger and Elephant', financial assistance is also provided for payment of ex-gratia relief for loss of life and property caused by wild animals. The Ministry has enhanced the amount of ex-

gratia relief in case of death or permanent incapacitation due to wild animal attacks during December 2023. At present the amount of ex-gratia relief payable under these schemes is as follows:

Sl.	Nature of damage caused by wild animals	Amount of ex-gratia relief
i.	Death or permanent incapacitation	Rs.10.00 lakh
ii.	Grievous injury	Rs.2.00 lakh
iii.	Minor injury	Cost of treatment up to Rs.25,000/-per person
iv.	Loss of property/crops	State/UT government may adhere to the cost norms prescribed by them.

- v. 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.
- vi. 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 conflict 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.
- vii. The Ministry has released species specific guidelines on 21.03.2023 for mitigation of Human -Elephant, -Gaur, -Leopard, -Snake, -Crocodile, - Rhesus Macaque, -Wild Pig, -Bear, -Blue Bull and -Blackbuck Conflict as well as Guidelines for cross cutting issues such as cooperation between the forest and media sector in India; occupational health and safety in the context of human-wildlife conflict mitigation; crowd management in human-wildlife conflict related situations and addressing health emergencies and potential health risks arising out of human-wildlife conflict situations.
- viii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.