

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1473**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021**

**Human-elephant conflict in Andhra Pradesh**

1473. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to address the human-elephant conflict in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the details of the measures aimed at mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to understand the causes of human-elephant conflict and the damage done to standing crops, farmers and environment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government has collected data on the deaths of human beings and elephants as a result of such conflict?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a)&(b) The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administration.

As per the information provided by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the steps taken by the State Government to address human elephant conflict are as follows:-

- (i) Creation of various barriers such as Elephant Proof Trench, solar fence, construction of wall, driving straying wild elephant into the forests, creation of water holes, fodder resources, boundary perambulation, etc.
- (ii) Periodic inspect of sagging and low laying electric lines and its maintenance.
- (iii) Withdrawal of free electricity to farmers booked under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- (iv) Awareness campaign against poisoning and provoking wild elephants.

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

- (i) The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant' for protection and conservation of elephants and their habitats 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) A guideline for Management of Human Elephant Conflict has been issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017 and elephant range states have been requested for implementation of the same.
- (iv) Critical elephant habitats are notified as 'Elephant Reserve' for focus and synergy in elephant conservation and to reduce conflict. The notification is carried out with the approval of Steering Committee formed in the Ministry. So far 30 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 major elephant States.
- (v) To reduce man-elephant conflict and to avoid retaliatory killing of elephants. Compensation is provided to local communities for loss of their property and life caused by wild elephants. The Ministry has notified enhancement of ex-gratia rates related to wildlife depredation vide letter No. 14-2/2011 WL-I (part) dated 9th February, 2018.

(c)&(d) Following studies were conducted to understand the causes of human-elephant conflict and the damage done:

- As per the information provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu a study has been commissioned on landscape level management of the Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) through long term population and individual level monitoring in human dominated landscapes and Collaring Select individual Elephant (6 numbers) at Hosur– Dharmapuri landscape including Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary.
- As per the information provided by the Government of Karnataka, a Karnataka Elephant Task Force was constituted which submitted its report in 2012. The report highlighted the major causes of Human-Elephant Conflict due to fragmentation of habitats, habitat loss, change in cropping pattern etc.
- Another study conducted on "Assessment and prediction of spatial patterns of human-elephant conflicts in changing land cover scenarios of a human-dominated landscape in North Bengal" funded by the National Mission on Himalayan Studies, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change which highlighted the (a) spatial factors and landscape variables responsible for conflicts, (b) identify human activities which make them vulnerable to

such incidents, (c) identify hotspots of conflicts, and (d) assess major land use/land cover changes.

- (e) The details of human being and elephant deaths during the last three years due to human elephant conflict as reported by State/UT Forest Departments are given below:

<b>Year.</b>	<b>Elephant Death</b>	<b>Human Death</b>
2018-19	115	457
2019-20	99	585
2020-21 (upto December, 2020)	87	359

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