

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 50**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

**Human animal conflict in Karnataka**

50. SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that the human casualties in Karnataka due to elephant attacks were more than 70 between 2019-20 and 2021-22;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) details of human casualties due to elephant attack during 2022-23, district-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that nearly 1600 human casualties were reported between 2019-20 and 2021-22;
- (e) the manner in which Ministry looks at this and details of plans that Government has to check casualties of humans due to elephant attacks; and
- (f) the manner in which Ministry is implementing cutting-edge technology viz. drone, to address this in Karnataka?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a)to(c)As per the information received from the State of Karnataka, 83 human casualties have been reported due to wild elephant attacks between 2019-20 to 2021-22. Moreover, 29 human casualties are also reported by the State of Karnataka due to wild elephant attacks in the year 2022-23. The district-wise data of human casualties due to elephant attack in the State of Karnataka during 2019-20 to 2022-23 is given in **Annexure**.
- (d) As per the information received from the elephant ranges states, 1595 human casualties have been reported due to wild elephant attacks between 2019-20 to 2021-22.
- (e)&(f) The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) are primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs Administration. The state forest departments are working with the local people to address the HEC issues through periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on human-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, Forest Departments are engaging with local communities as animal

trackers to monitor the movement of elephants and also to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life, property and elephants.

The Government of Karnataka has taken following measure for prevention of human deaths due to elephant attacks:

- (i) The Government of Karnataka has constituted District Elephant Task Force to tackle human-elephant conflict in the Hassan, Chikmangaluru, Mysuru, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Ramnagar & Bengaluru districts. Each Elephant Task Force has control room functioning 24/7 at its headquarters.
- (ii) The elephants which are habituated for causing damage are radio collared and their movement is shared with the local people on real time basis to prevent any untoward incidents.
- (iii) For long term mitigation of human-elephant conflict, the State Government of Karnataka has created a new budget head for construction of Railway barricades using scraped rails to prevent the movement of elephants from the forest areas to the human habitation and the railway barricades have proved to be very effective.
- (iv) As per the information received from the State of Karnataka, drones are used during elephant capture operation to uniquely identify the matriarch elephant in the herds/male tuskers for administering the drugs.
- (v) Drones are being used by the State Forest Department of Karnataka for elephant driving operations.

In addition, the following measures have been 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, 'Project Tiger and 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. 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) 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.

- (v) Wildlife Institute of India in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest & 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' to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including electric transmission lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.
- (vi) The Ministry has released a book titled "Best Practices of Human Elephant Conflict Management in India" for the benefit of States and other stakeholders.
- (vii) Important elephant habitats are notified as 'Elephant Reserve' for focus and synergy in elephant conservation and to reduce conflict. So far 33 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 elephant States.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- (x) Regional coordination meeting for the Eastern Region to address Human-Elephant Conflict was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at Kolkata.

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**ANNEXURE**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 50 RAISED BY SHRINARAYANA KORAGAPPA REGARDING ‘HUMAN ANIMAL CONFLICT IN KARNATAKA’ DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.07.2023.**

**District-wise Human casualties due to elephant attack in the State of Karnataka during 2019-20 to 2022-23**

S.No.	District	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Bengaluru Rural	1	0	0	0
2	Ramnagara	2	0	2	1
3	Kolar	4	4	2	0
4	Bannerugatta NP	1	1	2	4
5	Mysore	2	2	0	1
6	Hassan	3	5	5	4
7	Tumkur	1	0	0	0
8	Chamarajanagar	9	6	2	7
9	Chikkamagalore	2	0	2	3
10	Kodagu	5	8	12	5
11	Mangalore	0	0	0	3
12	Shivamogga	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>