

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

STARRED QUESTION NO. 145

DATE OF REPLY: 04.08.2021

Sub : Man-Elephant conflict.

Shri Gobinda Ch. Basumatari, MLA :

Will the Minister of Forest be pleased to state:

Will the department kindly state what measures has the Government taken so far to resolve the man-elephant conflict to save and protect the life and properties of the people living near the forest areas ?

ANSWER

Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests etc. Sri Parimal Suklabaidya will reply:-

The Government of Assam has taken several long term measures to resolve man-elephant conflict: viz like raising of fodder plantations, making habitat encroachment free, awareness and publicity generation, formulation of anti-depredation squads and rapid response teams, physical barrier like trenches, fences, bio-fences and a combination thereof, habitat interventions as per carrying capacity of flagship species, adopting smart green infrastructure in connecting habitats, agreement with the Railways for speed restrictions in sensitive areas and a Joint Coordination Committee to prevent elephant deaths due to electrocution has been constituted.

The most remarkable step in the field of Wildlife Conservation is the financial arrangement made by the Government of Assam for timely payment of compensation by exempting payment of ex-gratia from the purview of FOC to enable immediate release of funds to the effected families of deceased persons, loss of a limb or eye (s), crop damage, loss or damage of live stock, property damage etc. An amount of Rs. 236.282 lakhs has been sanctioned towards ex-gratia/compensation to the victims of Man-Elephant conflict during 2021-22.

Also some short term measures like driving away elephants by using crackers, fencing, drum beats, using powerful searchlight/torches, using early warning systems like trip alarms, use of Kunkies/trained elephants to manage wild elephants, a combination of aforesaid measures and removal of problem animals in extreme circumstances are taken for immediate resolution of conflicts.
