

പതിനാലാം കേരളനിയമസഭ

പത്താം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്രചിഹ്നമിടാത്ത ചോദ്യം നം.5015

23.03.2018 ന് മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്.

വന്യജീവികൾ നാട്ടിലിറങ്ങുന്നതിനുള്ള സാഹചര്യങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് പഠനം

ചോദ്യം

ഉത്തരം

ശ്രീ.അബ്ദുൽ ഹമീദ്.പി

അഡ്വ. കെ.രാജ്

(വനവും, മൃഗസംരക്ഷണവും, മൃഗശാലകളും
വകുപ്പുമന്ത്രി)

(എ) വന്യജീവികൾ നാട്ടിലിറങ്ങുന്നതിനുള്ള സാഹചര്യങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് പഠനം നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ; പ്രസ്തുത പ്രശ്നം സംബന്ധിച്ച് ആധികാരിക പഠനങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആയതിന്റെ പകർപ്പ് ലഭ്യമാക്കുമോ;

(എ) മനുഷ്യനും വന്യജീവികളും തമ്മിലുള്ള സംഘർഷങ്ങളും, അവ മൂലമുണ്ടാകുന്ന നാശനഷ്ടങ്ങളും, ആയതിന്റെ കാരണങ്ങളും പഠിക്കുവാൻ വനം വകുപ്പ് പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ചെയർമാനും, ചീഫ് വൈൽഡ് ലൈഫ് വാർഡൻ കൺവീനറുമായി 01.02.2011-ലെ സർക്കാർ ഉത്തരവ് (കയ്യെഴുത്ത്) നം.04/2011/വനം പ്രകാരം പത്തംഗ കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിയോഗിച്ചിരുന്നു. ടി കമ്മിറ്റി 03.05.2011-ൽ സർക്കാരിന് ഇടക്കാല റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിച്ചു. ആയതിന്റെ പകർപ്പ് അനുബന്ധമായി ഉള്ളടക്കം ചെയ്യുന്നു.

(ബി) വന്യജീവികൾ നാട്ടിലിറങ്ങുന്നത് മുൻകൂട്ടി കണ്ട് പരിഹാരം കാണുന്നതിന് നടപടി സ്വീകരിക്കുമോ?

(ബി) വന്യജീവികൾ നാട്ടിലിറങ്ങുന്നത് സംബന്ധിച്ച് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് മുന്നറിയിപ്പ് നൽകുന്നതിനായി Early Warning SMS Alert System സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് വന്യജീവി സംഘർഷം രൂക്ഷമായ വനാതിർത്തി പങ്കിടുന്ന 65 ജനവാസ മേഖലകളിൽ നടപ്പിലാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.


സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

**INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
TO STUDY THE ISSUES RELATED TO
MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT POSING SERIOUS
THREAT TO HUMAN LIFE AND
AGRICULTURE**

**Submitted to the
Hon'ble Minister for Forests &
Housing**

**On
03-05-2011**

**INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE ISSUES RELATED TO
MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT POSING SERIOUS THREAT TO HUMAN LIFE
AND AGRICULTURE.**

During the past few years, man-animal conflict has become a serious wildlife management problem in Kerala. People living in and around the Reserve Forests and Sanctuaries are under high sense of insecurity from wildlife. The growing pressure of ever increasing human population, habitat fragmentation, change in cropping pattern adopted by the farmers and increase in the number of various forms of wildlife may be the major reasons that can be attributed to the increased man-animal conflict. The conflict is particularly severe in the case of elephant and wild boar.

Damages due to wildlife take place in various forms including damage to cultivated crops, domestic cattle, and injury to people and even loss to human life. An analysis of threats for biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources in various forest divisions of Kerala indicates that human-wildlife conflict is a threat in almost all the divisions especially in the northern regions and particularly in Wayanad, Malappuram and Palakkad districts.

A large amount has been spent for raising power fences, elephant proof walls, constructing elephant proof trenches and for undertaking other precautionary activities so far.

The Kerala Forest Department has so far undertaken the following activities to prevent wildlife attack during the last few years.

- a) Constructed 482 km of elephant proof trenches.
- b) Erected 457 km of power fencing.
- c) Prepared plan for the relocation of people from 14 settlements in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary with a total outlay of Rs 80 crore. The proposal has already been submitted to the Central Government.
- d) 155.9073 ha of private land have been acquired for the restoration of elephant corridors from 1992 onwards under Project Elephant Scheme. The procedure for acquiring another 131.5 ha in Wayanad

District for restoration of elephant corridor in Wayanad district is in progress and the Central Government has approved the proposal and sanctioned Rs.7.89 crore, of which Rs.3 crore have been released and handed over to the District Collector.

- e) The compensation for damages due to wildlife attack has been enhanced during 2010 as per GO(Rt) 297/2010/F&WLD. As per this order, compensation for death has been increased from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.3 lakhs and compensation to crop damage enhanced from 75% of the loss to 100% with a maximum limit of Rs.50,000/-.
- f) Distributed a total amount of Rs.302.57 lakhs as compensation for wildlife damages for the period from 2006-07 to 2009-2010.

Inspite of all the above activities, incidents of man-animal conflict have been mounting and their intensity getting more and more severe year after year.

The number of cases of crop damages and the compensation thereon for the last three years shows an increasing trend (Table 1) & (Table 2).

Table 1 : No. of Death Cases due to wildlife attack and compensation paid from 2006 onwards

Sl.No	Year	No. of death cases	Compensation paid (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	2006-07	11	5.50
2.	2007-08	14	7.00
3.	2008-09	14	10.75
4.	2009-10	19	13.25
5.	2010-11	21 + 26 (snake bites)	22.00

Table 2: Cases of Crop Damages and the Compensation paid for the period from 2007-2011

Sl.No	Year	No. of cases	Compensation paid (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	2007-08	1752	56.94
2.	2008-09	1626	47.30
3.	2009-10	2770	104.30
4.	2010-11		130.80

A joint meeting of the Hon'ble Ministers for Agriculture and Forests was held on 19th January, 2011 at the Secretariat with the participation of senior officers of the two Departments with a view to evolving a permanent solution to the vexed problem of man-animal conflict and loss to human life and property, as a result thereof. As per the decisions of the meeting Government have appointed a Committee to study the issues related to man-animal conflict posing serious threat to human life and agriculture as per GO (MS) No.04/2011/F&WLD dated 01..02..2011. The members of the Committee are as follows.

1	Principal Secretary to Government (Forests & Housing)	Chairman
2	Shri.K.V.Ramakrishnan, President, Kerala Karshaka Sanghom State Committee.	Member
3	Shri.A.S.Sivadas, District Secretary, Kisan Sabha, Palakkad	Member
4	Shri.George Joseph Padavil, Vice President, Karshaka Congress (I), State Committee.	Member
5	Shri.Mathew Stephen (Ex.MLA), President, Karshaka Union (M), State Committee.	Member
6	Director of Agriculture.	Member
7	Prof.M.K.Prasad	Member

8	Dr.P.S.Easa, Wildlife Biologist and Former Scientist (Expert)	Member
9	Dr.N.K.Sasidharan Pillai, Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishath (Ex.General Secretary)	Member
10	Shri.N.V.Trivedi Babu, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in charge of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden	Convener

The terms of reference of the committee are as follows.

The Committee shall study the causes and effects of increased man-animal conflict in the State Agriculture leading to loss of life and damage to property and suggest short-term as well as long-term measures to contain the issue.

The Committee shall submit its report within two months.

The Committee had its first meeting on 01.03.2011 at the Forest Headquarters, Thiruvananthapuram.

At the outset the Principal Secretary (Forest & Wild Life) explained the back ground of the constitution of the Committee and explained the seriousness of the issue. He indicated that the loss of human life and crop damage due to wildlife has been a subject of discussion on several occasions in the Legislative Assembly. He emphasized that the report of the committee shall be submitted within the time prescribed.

The Chief Wildlife Warden made a presentation on the issue. He informed the committee that as per the 2002 census 6965 elephants, 60940 wild boars, 6051 monkeys are available in the forests of Kerala. There are no known man-eater tigers, leopards or rogue elephants in Kerala. However, crop raids by wild animals; particularly wild boar and elephants are quite common. He indicated that the raids were found to be maximum during June-July and the resultant damage has been found to be acute the case of paddy and banana crops. He explained the main reasons for the man-animal conflict as perceived by the Department and the various short-term solutions such as driving back the elephants, creation of barriers, payment of compensation, sterilization of wild animals, gathering intelligence about elephant movements, establishment of rehabilitation centres, capturing and releasing of animals in interior forests etc. being followed by the department at present.

He indicated that despite the above measures cases involving man-animal conflict have been on the increase. He further suggested long-term measures such as acquisition of corridors, rehabilitation and resettlement of people inside the forests, use of radio-collar for problematic animals and development of habitat to ensure better food and water to the wildlife. He

also indicated that a few states such as Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal had issued orders enabling the Divisional Forest Officers to arrange killing of wild boars straying into farmyard and damaging the crops.

Shri.K.V.Ramakrishnan indicated that the farmers unions in various places have been agitating against the Forest Department on crop damage by wild elephants and wild boars. He identified increase in number of wildlife and decrease in the availability of habitat as reasons for the man-animal conflict. He particularly pointed out the difficulties being faced by farmers by the crop raiding wild boars. He stated that elephants come out of the forests in search of food liked by them. The damage to crops from peacocks in Palakkad district and monkeys in Wayanad district have also been pointed out by the member. He suggested that restrictions on issuing licences for guns to farmers shall be removed and the problem solved without endangering wildlife.

Shri.A.S.Sivadas stated that the damage to crops by peafowl in Palakkad district has been increasing. He also stated that damage to crops due to Wild boars has been very high and they can be seen easily any where roaming around outside the forests. He also stated that there is delay in payment of compensation. He suggested that permission shall be granted for shooting wild boars straying into agricultural fields.

Shri.George Joseph stated that while protecting the wildlife, the interest of farmers shall not be neglected. He drew the attention of the committee to the damage done in cardamom plantations and other agricultural fields in Idukki district by wild elephants and wild boars as well as porcupines. He further stated that the farmers of Idukki are aware of the adverse effect of deforestation and the impact of climate change. However, certain percentage of the population of wild boars has to be necessarily removed and maximum importance shall be given to the welfare of human beings.

Prof.M.K.Prasad stated that a permanent solution to the problem of man-animal conflict is not easy. He also pointed out that the State does not have data about the damages inflicted by wild animals during the last 30 years. The actual value of the damage due to crop raids is also not being calculated and only a portion of the loss is being compensated. He emphatically stated that the only solution to the problem of crop raids by wild boars is to shoot and annihilate them. There shall be a proper management of the population of wild boars. He also indicated that the elephants are very intelligent animals. The elephant raids are more in areas where illicit distillation takes place. He suggested that research shall be conducted in each location to find out the actual cause of crop raids. The cooperation of the local people is necessary to manage the problem. He also suggested that the farmers across the State should be made aware of the various packages of compensation in case of crop raids and the rules thereof.

He indicated the need for the increasing of awareness as well as maintaining a data base on this issue.

Dr. Easa stressed the importance of time bound and site specific measures. He opined that an understanding of the utility of the various attempts made by the Forest Department to tackle the problem is necessary. He emphasised that no compensation need be paid if the local people are not maintaining the fence put up by the Department. He suggested enquiring about the measures taken by the neighbouring states to mitigate the issue. The involvement of the Local Self Government institutions will be helpful. He stated that the problems were less in Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks as compared to other areas. He suggested acquisition of corridors as a priority issue. He also indicated that some reduction in the population of wild boars was found necessary.

Shri. Sasidharan Pillai stated that utilization of latest technology to prevent the crop raids is necessary. Considering the increase in population it should be possible to allow selective killing of wild animals. He opined that the methodology adopted should be transparent and should involve the local people. He further suggested that steps for increasing the awareness are to be taken considering the fact that most of the deaths due to wildlife attack take place within the forests.

Joint Director, Agriculture indicated that 80% of the damage to crops is done by wild boars, 10% by wild elephants and 10% by other animals. He stated that adequate insurance to the crop is not available for want of documentation of the damages. He emphasized the need to arrange an appropriate insurance cover for the farmers suffering from wildlife attack.

The Committee after detailed discussion decided to collect the details of crop loss due to wild animals during the last 10 years. It also decided to collect details of various measures taken by the Forest Department of other states to tackle the issue of crop raids by wild boar. There has been a general consensus that the unrest among farmers could be largely addressed if the problem of crop raid by wild boars is tackled effectively. The Committee unanimously felt that there was an urgent need to find out a way to kill the crop raiding wild boars. The Committee decided to issue a notification in the press seeking the opinion of the public on the possible reasons for the wildlife attack and the solutions to solve the problems. The Committee decided to invite the Director, Animal Husbandry Department as a Special Invitee to the meetings of the Committee in future.

Accordingly a press release was issued on 04.03.2011 inviting the public to offer their valuable suggestions before 15.03.2011 either by fax, e-mail or by post. The press release was published in several local news papers. However, the response from the public was not significant.

The Committee again met on 27-04-2011. Besides the Chairman and the Convener, Shri.A.S.Sivadas, Prof. M.K.Prasad and the Additional Director, Animal Husbandry, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture attended the meeting. Dr.P.S.Easa, Member, who was held up at Bombay Airport conveyed his views over phone and the same were discussed.

The data regarding the wildlife damages was received from North Wayanad, Thenmala, Mankulam, Achenkovil, Parambikulam and Munnar divisions.

The Committee analysed the data received on wildlife damages. The Committee also considered the various suggestions received from the public. A suggestion from Edapanni Balakrishnan Nair, Vice President, Bharathiya Janatha Karshaka Morcha, Kasargode was to the effect that wild boar, porcupine etc shall be declared as vermin and shall be dealt with in accordance with section 11 (1) (b) of Wildlife Protection Act.

Shri.Shaji Chambakassery, Karshaka Samithi, Chulliyode suggested capturing of crop raiding wildlife subject to strict restrictions. He also suggested erecting solar fencing, allowing Grama Panchayath to dump chicken waste etc in selected places in forest areas which will form the field for certain wildlife. Shri.T.P.Devarajan, President, Kerala Pradesh Karshaka Congress, Kodasserimandalam Committee stated that wildlife with unlimited increase in population such as deer and wild boar shall be removed from the protected schedules. He suggested construction of rubble walls instead of trenches and solar fences and payment of compensation for damage of crop each time of its occurrence.

Shri.P.C.Thomas, Ex-MP suggested enhancement of compensation and not limiting the payment of compensation to one occasion.

The Committee also considered the letter from Government of India F No.1-5/92-WL1 dated 24.05.2000 addressed to various PCCFs of the States wherein it is stated as follows.

"Apropos the discussions held in Vigyan Bhavan during the third week of May, 2000 regarding the problem of crop damage by species like blue bulls, wild boars etc in certain localities.

The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs vide this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 09..11..1992 (copy enclosed). As per the advice given by the Ministry of Law vide its UO No.32206/92 dated 11..12..1992, the State Govt. were advised, vide letter of even number dated 05..01..1993, that the problem of animals other than those belonging to Schedule-I, can be mitigated effectively under the provisions of Section 11 (i) (b) of the Act. This would allow the

wildlife authorities to get such animals that are really posing threat to life and property, hunted. You may therefore, deal with the issue at your end, accordingly".

The Chief Wildlife Warden brought to the notice of the Committee the orders issued by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of Uttaranchal to deal with the problem of the crop raids by wild boars. He informed that the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh as per Memo No.2081/For.II(2)/2010-2 dated 05.08.2010 (copy enclosed) had permitted the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWW, Andhra Pradesh to delegate the powers vested to him under Section 5(2) of Wildlife Protection Act 1972 to all the DFOs of territorial and wildlife divisions to shoot wild boars under section 11 (b), which are damaging the agricultural crops for one year from the date of issue of the order. Wild boars which are repeatedly creating trouble in human areas and which can not be driven back to the forests should only be ordered for killing. The killed wild boars shall be buried 3 feet deep after writing necessary mahazars and documentations. Shooting shall be by the person authorized by the Divisional Forest Officer and shall be done in the presence of a Forest Officer not below the rank of a Range Officer.

He also informed that the Chief Wildlife Warden of Uttaranchal as per order No.944/25-1 dated 06.10.2007 had delegated his powers under section 11(1) to the CFs/DFOs to kill problematic wild boars dangerous to life and property. Based on the application of the Gramapanchayath the RO will conduct an enquiry and based on the same the Divisional Forest Officer will arrange hunting of the wild boar within 15 days through identified hunters. The hunted wild boar will be burnt in the presence of President of the Grama panchayath and others.

The Committee also examined the legal provisions under the Wildlife Protection Act in this regard.

As per Section 5(2) the Chief Wildlife Warden may with the previous approval of the State Government by order in writing, delegate all or any of his powers and duties under this Act except those under Class (a) of Sub Section (i) of Section 11 to any officer subordinate to him subject to such conditions if any as may be specified in the order. Section 11 (i) (b) reads as follows:

The Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorized officer may, if he is satisfied that any wild animal specified in Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV, has become dangerous to human life or to property (including standing crops on any land) or is so disabled or diseased as to be beyond recovery, by order in writing and stating the reasons therefore, permit any person to hunt such animal or group of animals in a specified area or cause such animal or group of animals in that specified area to be hunted.

The Committee after detailed discussions arrived at the following conclusions.

Reasons for man-animal conflict resulting in loss of human life and damage to crops.

- Fragmentation of habitat and absence of adequate corridors
- Cultivation of crops attractive to wild animals
- Dispersal of colonies across the forests
- Growth of weeds and undergrowth along the forest paths, hindering the visibility of wildlife
- Dumping of waste on the borders of forest areas attracting the wildlife
- Increase in population of herbivores
- Migration of elephants from other states.

I. Recommendations

- The Committee is of the unanimous view that the major problem faced by the farmers in the State can be solved by authorizing controlled annihilation of crop raiding wild boars.
- The State Government may authorize the Chief Wildlife Warden to delegate powers vested on him under Section 5 (2) of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 to all the Range Officers of the territorial ranges and the Assistant Wildlife Wardens of the wildlife ranges to shoot wild boars that damage agricultural crops. This will be under Section 11 (b) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and will initially be implemented on a pilot basis in selected districts which have recorded heavy crop raids by wild animals viz., Wayanad, Malappuram, Palakkad, Idukki and Pathanamthitta, for a period of one year subject to the following conditions and following the procedure given below:

Procedure

- The farmer, who repeatedly suffers on account of crop raiding by Wild boars, shall make an application to the Range Officer/ Assistant Wildlife Warden having jurisdiction over the area requesting for shooting the Wild boars, specifying the location of his farmyard, details of crop damage and number and size of the problematic Wild boar/Wild boars.

- The Range Officer/ Assistant Wildlife Warden in consultation with the President of the VSS/EDC/Member of the Grama Panchayath and after satisfying himself about the correctness of the petition, arrange the shooting of the crop raiding Wild boars within three days from the date of receipt of the application. Alternatively if he is not satisfied about the necessity to shoot the wild boar, he shall inform the petitioner in writing giving the reasons therefor within three days.
- The shooting of the Wild boars shall be arranged utilizing the services of either the forest staff or hired shooters. The shooting shall be done only under the supervision of the forest staff. The hired shooters shall be paid at the rate of Rs.500/- per each wild boar shot and killed.
- The killed wild boar shall be covered by a mahasar to be prepared by a forest officer not below the rank of a Forester and two members of the public.
- The wild boars killed shall not be used for meat or any other purpose. They shall be sprinkled with kerosene and buried 3 feet deep or burnt.
- All such cases shall be reported to Chief Wildlife Warden immediately.
- Each Divisional Forest Officer shall constitute a Monitoring Committee with representatives of various farmers' organizations and the local NGOs and monitor the impact of this order in terms of the reduction in the number of crop raids.

Conditions

- No shooting of wild boars shall be allowed in any encroached forest land.
- No lactating wild boar shall be shot.
- No shooting of wild boars shall be allowed within the forest areas except in recognized tribal settlements.
- No shooting of wild boars shall be allowed in agricultural fields protected by elephant proof trench/solar fencing/ rubble wall erected at Government cost.
- If the wild boar escapes into the forests during the course of hunting, it shall not be hunted within the forests.

Government may review the situation after six months and decide whether to continue the above arrangements or to extend the same to the whole of Kerala.

The department shall consider control of population of the wild boars within the forest areas based on census of wild animals and prey-predator studies etc.

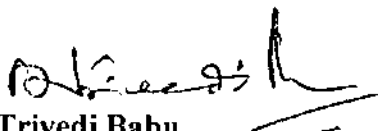
II. The construction of barriers like solar fencing, elephant proof trenches, rubble walls shall continue to be undertaken based on the local demand, site conditions as well as the seriousness of the problem. To enable this, the State Govt. shall increase the allocation under the B.H.2406-02-110-68-Conservation of Biodiversity (Plan) from the present allocation of Rs.3.50 crore to Rs.5 crore in this regard.

III. The department may consider sterilization of bonnet macaque in problematic areas outside the forest areas.

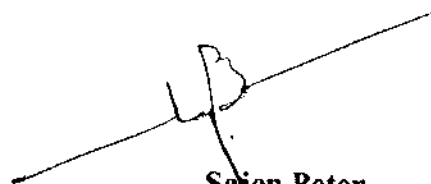
IV. The department may engage squads to monitor the movement of problematic elephants and arrange to drive them back.

V. The department may plan habitat improvement works so as to enhance the availability of food and water to wildlife within the forests. The department shall conduct biomass studies to ascertain the availability of forage to the wild animals.

VI. The committee noted that the amount sanctioned for the payment of compensation for the victims of wildlife and crop damage during 2011-12 is only Rs.80 lakhs, whereas during 2010-11 an amount of Rs.130 lakhs was spent under the B.H.2406-01-800-90 Compensations to Victims (Non Plan). The Committee recommends to enhance the allocation to Rs.300 lakhs.



N.V. Trivedi Babu
(Addl.Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests (WP&R)
CONVENOR



Sajen Peter
(Principal Secretary, Forest & Wildlife)
CHAIRMAN

