



8TH MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECOND PART OF THE FOURTH SESSION

STARRED
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, the 26th June, 2009

BAMBOO FLOWERING

SHRI J.M. MARAK

*1. Will the Minister of Forests and Environment be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that "bamboo flowering" is prevailing all over Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to alleviate the miseries of the poor farmers whose earnings are badly affected due to "bamboo flowering"?

Dr. R. C. LALOO

(Minister in-charge, Forests & Environment)

(a) Sir, Bamboo flowering is more or less over in Meghalaya.

(b) The following are some of the measures taken :

- (i) construction of extraction paths for harvesting and extraction of flowered bamboo from hitherto inaccessible locations.
- (ii) creation of fire lines and engagement of firewatchers to prevent fire breaking out to the dried bamboo areas.
- (iii) regeneration of flowered areas.
- (iv) monitoring of the rodent population.
- (v) creating awareness about bamboo flowering to help farmers cope with the situation.

ELEPHANT DEPREDATION**SHRI J.M. MARAK****Dr. R. C. LALOO**
(Minister in-charge, Forests & Environment)

*2. Will the Minister of Forests and Environment be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the elephant depredation in human habitats is on the increase in Garo Hills; and

(a) Sir, the Department is aware of the cases of depredation caused by elephants. However, the number of cases fluctuates from year to year.

(b) the measures taken to drive away the elephants to safe places?

(b) The elephant population is spread over a large area of the State. It is not possible to drive out the elephants to a particular place as they have a wandering nature and a large range of movement for food water and shelter. However, the Government has taken some measures to minimize the damage by depredation which includes:

- (i) Habitat Improvement.
- (ii) Encouraging people to plant crops not favoured by elephants.
- (iii) Constitution of voluntary protection squads in vulnerable villages.
- (iv) Carrying out scaring operations.

COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF ELEPHANT DEPREDATION

SHRI J.M. MARAK

*3. Will the Minister of Forests and Environment be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the payment of compensation to victims of elephant depredation is time consuming while realization of compensation from public for killing elephants is faster; and

(b) whether the Government proposes to check overpopulation of elephants by giving licences to catch young elephants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Dr. R. C. LALOO

(Minister in-charge, Forests & Environment)

(a) Sir, it takes sometime to verify and process the cases of payment of ex-gratia assistance for damage to property, livestock, etc., caused by wild elephants. However, in cases of loss of life, ex-gratia assistance is provided to the next of kin on priority basis.

For killing of an elephant, no compensation is realized from any quarter. Killing of wild elephants is punishable under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Rules from there under after following due process of law.

(b), (c) & (d) Sir, under Section 12 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, prior sanction of the Central Government is required. The Central Government has so far not issued any permission since 1986 for capturing by a method suitable for the State.

SHILLONG
24th JUNE, 2009

R. KOTHANDARAMAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY