

जयराम रमेश
JAIRAM RAMESH



राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
पर्यावरण एवं वन
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110003
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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31st January, 2011

My dear Vishankji -

This has reference to my recent D.O. of January 17, 2011, regarding human deaths in the Corbett area. Though a tiger has been eliminated recently after another incident of human death, the problem may recur again owing to biotic disturbances in the area.

In this context, I wish to suggest these urgent actions for the State:

- (i) Submitting a relocation proposal to this Ministry for providing 100% central assistance for relocating/rehabilitating the Sundarkhal and Devichaud human settlements at the earliest.
- (ii) Advising the District Authorities for alerting local people in such situations, while preventing them from trespassing the affected areas. In all instances of wild carnivores like tiger/leopard straying into a human-dominated landscape, the district authorities need to ensure law and order by imposing Section 144 of the Cr.PC. This is essential to avoid agitated/excited local people surrounding the animal spot which hampers capture operation, leading to serious injuries on people and staff.
- (iii) Putting in place at least 2 "Rapid Response Units" in sensitive spots to readily address the problem for capturing the animal to avoid lethal encounters as per NTCA guidelines.
- (iv) Declaring part of the areas of Lansdowne, West Terai and Ramnagar divisions, adjoining the core of Corbett, as a buffer zone for its management as a multiple use area, as required under Section 38V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, for reducing man-wild animal conflicts.

- (v) Ensuring eco-development in the buffer area for the benefit of local people with central support.
- (vi) Keeping track of cattle depredation by carnivores through wireless on a daily basis, and ensuring timely compensation to affected people, while considering the option of opening fuel wood depots to local people.
- (vii) Monitoring movement of wild carnivores using camera traps (on the sides as well as along the route).
- (viii) Providing appropriate firearms to field-staff for eliminating aberrant carnivores / elephants in extreme cases (as per norms, a firearm having a calibre of not less than 0.375 magnum is suitable for tiger / leopard, and a calibre of 0.450 and above for elephants).
- (ix) Training a special core group of staff for using and maintaining the above firearms.
- (x) Appointing a well known conservationist familiar with the area, like Shri Brijendra Singh, as the Honorary Wildlife Warden for Corbett for appropriate guidance (the State Government has already been requested in this regard earlier).

I have spoken to you twice on this
I solicit your urgent personal intervention on the above urgent issues.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Jai Ram Ramesh
(Jai Ram Ramesh)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank"
Chief Minister
Government of Uttarakhand,
Dehradun.

As: The situation at Corbett is serious for a variety of reasons. We shall pay a visit together soon.