



Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
Department of Forest, Environment & Ecology  
J&K Civil Secretariat  
Srinagar/Jammu  
[www.jkforest.adm.nic.in](http://www.jkforest.adm.nic.in)

**Calling Attention Notice:**

**Dr. Shenaz Ganai, Hon'ble MLC**

**“to call the attention of the Government towards a matter of urgent public importance namely, the situation that has arisen due to monkey menace in Poonch, Barchar and other areas of Mandi and the steps taken by the Government in this behalf”.**

**Reply**

In Poonch, Barchar and other areas of Mandi the reports of monkey menace are received from time to time during the maize crop season. The Wildlife Department has posted local staff in the local areas to deal with the problem by using crackers whenever any such report is received from the affected areas. The staff is rushed to the affected spot immediately to deal with the situation. People are being made aware of this menace by way of distributing pamphlets, brochures, hoardings etc.

This is a typical problem prevalent in Jammu region due to highly adaptable nature of the monkeys in different habitations in order to deal with monkey menace a committee was constituted by the Government vide order No 10-FST of 2012 dated 04.01.2013. The committee submitted its report to the Government suggesting therein the measure to deal with monkey menace. The proposal among other things included in short term (capturing, translocation and subsequent release, changes in cropping pattern, awareness generation particularly for avoiding monkey feeding) and long term (habitat improvement by way of planting fruit trees in forest areas castration of monkeys) measures to be implemented over a period of ten years.

With regard to monkey menace the steps taken to mitigate are awareness generation among the public for proper disposal of food waste and avoidance of feeding of monkeys. The Department has taken steps to augment the food of monkeys in forest areas by planting food plants used by wild animals especially monkeys.

### **Short Term Measures:**

Short Term Measures may provide immediate relief to a certain extent. A few short term measures are described as follows:-

#### **I. Prevention of damage to Agriculture crops:**

- The Agriculture Department proposes cultivation of alternative crops in the agricultural fields vulnerable to damages by monkeys.
- Turmeric, Ginger, Okra and Marigold can help reduce the monkey attacks on the agricultural crops.
- A proposal has been prepared by the Agricultural Department on these lines.
- The Turmeric and Ginger, having valuable underground parts, are not liked by monkeys.
- Marigold and lady finger (Okra) plants are also not choice edibles for monkeys. These plants can be planted along the periphery of the crop fields in an appropriate manner to keep the monkeys away.

#### **II. Awareness campaign:**

- Monkey feeding has driven the monkeys away from their natural habitat to roadside and habitations/cities/towns which in turn has proved fatal to monkeys besides causing losses/inconvenience to public. There is need to discourage this practice to keep the monkeys away from roads/habitations.
  - Hoardings forbidding monkey feeding will be put up at appropriate places.
  - People will be urged through news papers/radio/TV channels not to feed the monkeys.
  - Awareness programmes will be organized at the educational institutions to involve students in spreading awareness among public.
  - Brochures will be prepared for distribution among students/the masses.

#### **III. Relocation of Monkeys:**

- Remote forest areas falling in Bani and Dudu-Basantgarh are the only areas away from habitations.
- Monkeys from certain places of Kathua and Udhampur Districts can be relocated to these forest areas.

## **Long Term Measures:**

Taking long-term measures will actually help tackle the problem in the long. Following actions are required to be taken in this regard.

### **I. Habitat improvement by way of planting fruit trees in forest areas:**

- To ensure that monkeys stay in the forest areas, their habitat needs to be enriched besides discouraging monkey feeding.
- In this context, there is need to improve the monkey habitat by way of planting appropriate fruit species so that there is sufficient food available to monkeys.



Under Secretary to Government  
Forest, Env. & Ecology Department

Sd/-

Minister Incharge (Forests)