

Elephants killed in train accidents

*159. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some elephants have been killed due to train accidents in Kerala and Assam recently;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to protect the elephants by erecting fences at important junctions to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Two unfortunate incidents involving 8 elephants on Northeast Frontier Railway and one incident involving one elephant calf on Southern Railway have occurred in the recent past. These unfortunate incidents did not occur in the elephant corridors identified jointly by the Forest Department and the Ministry of Railways. Moreover, the Forest Department is required to inform the Railways in advance about the movement of elephant herds so that train operations can be suitably regulated.

(c) Ministry of Railways is holding regular meetings with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take remedial measures for controlling elephant casualties. Elephant Corridors have been identified by the Forest Department, where, speed restrictions have been imposed and signage boards provided, to pre-warn the train drivers. As per advice of Forest Department, Railways is also attempting to find a more lasting solution in the matter through a proposal for deposit works consisting of measures such as ramps and underpasses etc.

Advisory to all Zonal Railways have also been issued to sensitise Train Crew and Station Masters on a regular basis. Instructions have also been issued for need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within Railway land.

Guidelines regarding provision of subsidised grains

*160. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has carried out a fresh survey to ascertain the number of citizens who are in the categories of Above the Poverty Line, Below the Poverty Line and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana;