

(a) whether Elephant Task Force has submitted any report to Government about its plan to check the incidents of elephants deaths in train accidents;

(b) if so, whether in order to protect the elephants some important facts have been mentioned in said report and by implementing them, several elephants could be saved from such accidents to a large extent;

(c) whether establishment of a National Elephant Protection Authority and recognizing the Indian elephants as its national heritage have also been recommended in that report; and

(d) if so, the details of the decisions and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Task Force on Project Elephant was set up with a wider mandate and it has submitted its report. The Task Force in its report has made several recommendations including recommendations to prevent death of elephants in train accidents.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The notification declaring elephant as National Heritage Animal has been issued. Establishment of National Elephant Conservation Authority is under process.

#### **Killing of deer at Kartanya Reserve forest**

1284. SHRI TARINIKANTA ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five deers were killed at Kartanya Reserve Forest on 25th October, 2010 being ran over by Gokul Express; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Five spotted deer (Chital: Axis axis) were run over by Gokul Express in the early morning of 24th October 2010. The incident took place on Gonda-Mailani rail line passing through Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. The incident was detected by the local forest staff and a forest case has been registered against the driver and guard of the train under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.