

(e) The following short term and long term measures for addressing the problem of elephant depredation have been taken by the State Government of Assam:

Short Term Measures:

- (i) Making of fire and beating drums is encouraged in the affected area to protect agriculture crops from depredation by elephants.
- (ii) The construction of raised platform (*Machan*) for observation and guarding by the villagers is resorted to at the problematic sites.
- (iii) Crackers, torch lights, spot lights etc. are provided to the villagers for use.
- (iv) Domestic elephants (*Kunkis*) are used to drive away wild-elephants from the agriculture fields.
- (v) Ex-gratia is provided for injury or loss of human life, as well as for damage to property including crops.
- (vi) Rapid response teams have been formed.
- (vii) Digging of elephant trenches and installation of electric fencing/bio-fencing have been taken up at selected places.
- (viii) Problematic elephants are being monitored regularly and if required, they are relocated.

Long Term Measures:

- (i) Habitat improvement.
- (ii) Restoration of Elephant Corridors.
- (iii) Infrastructure improvement in elephant reserves for effective management of elephant population.
- (iv) Studies on elephant problems are encouraged.
- (v) Awareness programmes are taken up for stakeholders at local level to minimize the loss of life and property caused by the wild elephants.

National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority

4. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to set up a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA);

(b) if so, whether the proposed NEAMA will cope up effectively with rising environmental challenges which are faced by the State level environmental clearance boards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of compliance of environmental statutes and to improve environmental planning and management with a focus on environmental impact assessment and coastal zone management is in a conceptual stage. A draft Study Report regarding this titled "Scope, Structure and Processes of NEAMA" prepared by IIT, Delhi has been uploaded on the Ministry's website on 26.11.2010 for comments.

Mortality rate of wild animals in Orissa

5. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of elephant, tiger, leopard deaths in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for increased mortality rate of elephants and tigers in the State; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by Government to prevent death of elephants due to electrocution especially on elephant corridors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The number of deaths of elephant, tiger and leopard during last three years are as under :

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Elephant	54	47	51
Tiger	-	-	1
Leopard	1	1	1