

(c) whether Government has formulated any guidelines for this plan or has issued guidelines to States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) There is increasing trend of disruptions of rail operations due to reasons relating to law and order. As maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the State Governments, it has been decided to give two new trains and two new projects as special package to a State which ensures trouble free train running for the whole year.

Death of elephants in train accidents

752. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the death of elephants in rail accident while crossing railway tracks; and

(b) the details of precautionary measures taken for the protection of elephants crossing railway lines in the Deepor Beel area of Guwahati in Assam and other forest areas where elephant movement is frequent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Railways in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued a General Advisory to Zonal Railways on 30.3.2010. The advisory prescribes guidelines for Railways and Forest officials which will help in preventing such incidences.

As a consequence of General Advisory, instructions have also been issued to sensitize Train Crew and Station Masters on a regular basis and for need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within railway land. 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, Railway is also attempting to find a more lasting solution in the matter through proposal for deposit works consisting of measures such as ramps and underpasses etc. Joint inspection was carried out by the Railway alongwith Forest Department in Deepor Beel area to identify the works to be done and consent of Forest Department has been sought. Railway is also holding regular meetings with the Forest Department of State Government of West Bengal to take remedial measures for controlling elephant casualties.