

(b) if so, the details thereof and;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to establish an independent Bio-safety institute to test the harmful effects of GM crops that are imported or developed in the country as there are several reputed institutions in India that have the capability of conducting biosafety assessment. However, there is a proposal to establish an independent 'Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI)' for the regulation of GM Crops through an Act of Parliament, to promote the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of regulatory procedures including the testing of GM crops for harmful effect, if any. The BRAI Bill has been submitted to Lok Sabha Secretariat for introduction by the Department of Biotechnology.

Unnatural deaths of elephants

777. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of elephants deaths are occurring by coming in contact of low level electrical wires and train accidents on railway tracks in Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Assam;

(b) whether Government has any statistics of the elephant death;

(c) the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken to prevent such casualties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) It is a fact that elephant deaths have occurred due to electrocution and train accidents on railway tracks in Odisha & Assam and due to electrocution in Uttar Pradesh. The details of last three years are given below.

Year	Assam		Odisha		Uttar Pradesh	
	Train Hit	Electrocution	Train Hit	Electrocution	Train Hit	Electrocution
2009-10	7	6	Nil	9	Nil	Nil
2010-11	5	5	Nil	18	Nil	Nil
2011-12	7	9	2	13	Nil	3

(b) to (d) The details of elephant deaths due to various reasons state wise for the last three years related to train accidents, poaching and poisoning have been given respectively in Statement-I, II and III (*See* below). For prevention of elephant deaths due to train accidents, electrocution and poisoning, following measures have been taken:

1. General Advisories to prevent train accidents involving elephants have been issued jointly with Ministry of Railways. These are as following:
 - (a) Clearance of Vegetation on the sides of Railway tracks.
 - (b) Underpasses/overpasses across the Railway track to allow elephants to escape.
 - (c) Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers.
 - (d) Sensitising programmes for Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters.
 - (e) Engagement of Elephant trackers by MoEF and communication with Station Masters.
 - (f) To keep Railway track free from food water that attracts elephants.
2. The Chief Wildlife Wardens of elephant range states have been instructed time to time to keep vigil and take appropriate measures to contain the deaths of elephants due to poaching, poisoning etc.

Statement-I

Elephant casualties in train accidents

State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto 31.1.2013)
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	7	5	7	0
West Bengal	1	12	3	4
Tamil Nadu	1	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	1	1	0
Kerala	3	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
Odisha	0	0	2	10
Tripura	0	1	0	0
Uttarakhand	0	0	0	2
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	12	19	13	16

Statement-II

Elephant death due to poaching

State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Assam	4	2	0
West Bengal	1	0	0
Uttarakhand	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	3	0	1
Jharkhand	0	0	1
Kerala	4	0	0
Orissa	3	17	8
Karnataka	3	7	3
Nagaland	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	26	13

Statement-III*Elephant death due to poisoning*

State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	0
Karnataka	0	0	0
Kerala	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0
Tripura	0	0	0
West Bengal	1	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	1
Uttarakhand	0	0	0
TOTAL	01	00	01

Wild animals killed by speedy trains

778. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY:

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Elephants and other wild animals run over by speeding trains between North Bengal and North-East from 2010 till date;

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to prevent such accidental deaths of wild animals;

(c) whether Government is contemplating change of railway routes from the natural corridors of wild elephants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) 20 Elephants have died due to train hits between North Bengal and North-East/Assam border from 2010 till date. The number of other wild animals run over by trains in this region is not collated in the Ministry.