

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ecologically sensitive areas are likely to be reduced to nearly 50,000 sq.km. from 56,825 sq. km.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had issued a draft Notification dated 10.03.2014 for notifying an area of 56,825 sq. km as ecologically sensitive in the Western Ghats covering six States with a view to conserving the biodiversity of the Western Ghats region while providing adequate opportunities for livelihood security of the local people in the broad paradigm of sustainable development by promoting environment-friendly and socially inclusive development in the Western Ghats region.

The Ministry convened a meeting with the State Environment and Forest Ministers of the Western Ghats region on 7th July, 2015 and a meeting on 03.08.2015 with Members of Parliament of Western Ghats region to *inter-alia* review the progress of demarcation of Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in Western Ghats by physical verification by various States and to also address the apprehensions /concerns expressed by the State Governments and the various stakeholders of Western Ghats from time to time. The Ministry had reassured that nothing substantial is going to change within the ESA in Western Ghats as far as livelihoods and day to day activities of local people are concerned and that there would be no dislocation of people living in the ESA. Further, habitations, plantations and agricultural activity/practices will also not be affected in the ESA due to the provisions contained in the draft notification.

The Ministry brought out a fresh draft notification dated 04.09.2015 on Western Ghats addressing these concerns/apprehensions wherein the extent of Ecologically Sensitive Area and the other provisions stated in the earlier draft notification remain unchanged.

Human-elephant conflicts

*237. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people and elephants killed in human-elephant conflicts and crops damaged by elephants across the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise including Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) whether Government has conducted any study about migration pattern movement of elephants in order to avoid such conflicts and if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the steps taken by Government for satellite tracking of select elephants through radio collars, in order to avoid such incidents by providing real time information to villagers about their movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) State-wise number of human and elephants killed in human elephant conflict and crops damaged by elephants across the country during the last three years is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) Wildlife Trust of India with approval of the Ministry has conducted a study about migration patterns of elephants and identification of elephant corridors in the country. This study has not covered issues relating to human elephant conflicts. It has identified and documented 88 elephant corridors across the country.

(c) The wild elephants were radio collared in various studies, covering various regions in the country, from time to time in studies conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Asian Nature Conservation Foundation, Bangalore. However, these studies did not cover collection of real time data about movement of elephants, for minimizing human elephant conflicts.

Statement

State-wise number of human and elephants killed in human elephant conflict and crops damaged by elephants across the country

State	2012-13			2013-14			2014-15		
	Human Deaths	Elephant Deaths	Compensation paid for loss of crops/ property (₹ in lakhs)	Human Deaths	Elephant Deaths	Compensation paid for loss of crops/ property (₹ in lakhs)	Human Deaths	Elephant Deaths	Compensation paid for loss of crops/ property (₹ in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	3.70	2	1	16.88	2	2	52.32
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	7	0	35.26	Information not received	Information not received	Information not received
Assam	79	23	66.87	87	14	49.01	54	3	1.61
Chhattisgarh	22	4	226.72	23	Complete information not received	345.83	32	Complete information not received	269.63
Jharkhand	60	4	120.19	56	4	275.61	53	0	501.57
Karnataka	37	14	1308.83	33	5	993.81	38	15	1239.38
Kerala	13	4	308.54	7	0	124.82	20	3	264.59
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Maharashtra	0	0	86.83	0	0	118.8	3	0	123.43
Meghalaya	1	9	60.00	10	6	71.49	3	4	14.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nagaland	0	0	9.00	0	0	5.15	1	0	4.60
Odisha	83	31	800.52	67	18	983.21	64	9	979.70
Tamil Nadu	50	Information not received	1658 (No. of incidents)	52	Information not received	979 (No. of incidents)	31	Information not received	2258 (No. of incidents)
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.91
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	3.254	Information not received	1	Information not received	Information not received	0	Information not received
Uttarakhand	7	5	0	Information not received	0	Information not received	Information not received	0	Information not received
West Bengal	69	6	410.42	69	23	9.46	89	Complete information not received	Information not received
TOTAL	422	101	3404.86	413	72	3029.33	391	39	3452.69

56 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Starred Questions