

two meetings with officers of the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 13.08.2018 and 23.10.2018 regarding development of an Access Controlled Green Field Expressway connecting the new capital city of Amaravati to Anantapuramu in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The alignment of the aforesaid road stretch has been finalised with a length of approximately 384 kms. It has been envisaged to develop the Expressway initially as 4-lane Expressway with a provision of upgradation/expansion to 8-lane in future depending upon the traffic requirement. Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to transfer the Government land free of cost and bear 50% of the cost of the land to be acquired. Further, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has committed to obtain requisite statutory clearances (*i.e.* environmental, forest, wildlife etc.) so that the approval/award of civil works/execution of work for the aforesaid Expressway is taken up expeditiously.

Release of MGNREGA fund to Karnataka

*266. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that Government of Karnataka has released ₹1,227 crores during 2015-16 and 2016-17 as an advance release, under MGNREGA which is over and above the State's share;

(b) whether it is a fact that ₹1,090 crores are yet to be released to the State by the Ministry;

(c) if so, reasons for not releasing the amount in spite of repeated requests from the State Government; and

(d) by when the Ministry would release the above amount to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) As per audited Utilization Certificates (UCs) for the financial year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and provisional UC for FY 2018-19 submitted by the State Government, an advance of ₹ 2174.99 crore has been released by State under MGNREGA.

(b) According to the UCs for the said period, State has recouped an amount of ₹ 1239.50 crore from the Central releases so far. The balance amount of ₹935.49 crore as on 03.01.2019 is to be adjusted.

(c) and (d) The Ministry releases funds to the States/UTs including Karnataka based on the basis of the agreed to Labour Budget, opening balance, pending liabilities

of the previous financial year, if any, and overall performance. Central fund released to Karnataka State during the last three financial years and current FY 2018-19 is given as under:

Financial year	Central Release (₹ in crore)
2015-16	991.55
2016-17	2258.64
2017-18	2964.48
2018-19 *	2805.35

*as on 03.01.2019.

The release of Central funds to Karnataka has been rising in the last three financial years. Fund release to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed in making funds available keeping in view the demand for work.

Death of wild animals in rail and road accidents

*267. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of death of wild animals in road and rail accidents in the country during the last three years;
- (b) whether recently some lions in Gujarat were killed by a speeding train;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any enquiry has been ordered to find out lapses on the part of forest officials or Railways for train not slowing down in the vulnerable areas;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) details of measures taken in the past and proposed to be taken to avoid death of wild animals in accidents?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The number of death of wild animals in road and rail accidents in the country are not collated by the Ministry. However, details collected from the States the number of death of elephants, lion and tigers in road/rail accidents in the country as available with the Ministry during the last three years are given in the Statement-I, III respectively (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As informed by the State Government of Gujarat, three lions including two male and one female were killed in rail accident on railways track near Borala village of Savarkundla Taluka of Amreli District on 17th December, 2018.