

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1379
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

Human-induced and natural deaths of elephants

1379. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has details of human-induced and natural deaths of elephants occurring during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State and district-wise;
- (c) whether the Central Government has taken any steps to contain the man-animal conflict and its subsequent loss to biodiversity; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)to(d) The State-wise details of human-induced deaths of elephant like train hits, electrocution, poaching and poisoning, during the last five years, as per the information received from States, are enclosed as **Annexure**. The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs Administration. The state forest departments are working with the local people to address the HEC issues through periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on man-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, Forest Departments are engaging with local communities as animal trackers to monitor the movement of elephants and also to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life and elephants.

In addition, the following measures taken by Ministry also help in mitigation of human-animal conflict:-

- (i) The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats and 'Project Tiger & Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country.
- (ii) Various other Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by this Ministry contribute to the improvement in the natural habitat of elephants by augmenting

water sources, planting of fodder trees, regeneration of bamboo etc. Such schemes include Development of Wildlife Habitat and Project Tiger. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and the Rules made there under also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, including for elephants, establishment of animal rescue centres, etc. which also contribute to reduction in HEC.

- (iii) A guideline for Management of Human Elephant Conflict has been issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017 and elephant range states have been requested for implementation of the same.
- (iv) To reduce man-elephant conflict and to avoid retaliatory killing of elephants. Compensation is provided to local communities for loss of their property and life caused by wild elephants. The Ministry has notified enhancement of ex-gratia rates related to wildlife depredation vide letter No. 14-2/2011 WL-I (part) dated 9th February, 2018.
- (v) An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February 2021. The advisory recommends coordinated interdepartmental action, identification of conflict hot spots, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of rapid response teams, formation of State and District level committees to review the quantum of ex-gratia relief, issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments, and provision of adequate funds for suitable portion of ex-gratia relief to be paid within 24 hours to the affected persons in the case of death and injury to persons.
- (vi) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflicts including damage to crops. It includes promotion of crops in forest fringe areas which are unpalatable to wild animals, agro forestry models which include cash crops like chillies, lemon grass, khus grass etc. suitably mixed with tree/shrub species. It also includes preparation and implementation of comprehensive long-term plan for alternate cropping by the state Agriculture/Horticulture Department under different schemes in vulnerable areas.
- (vii) The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest, and Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank Group has published a document namely 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railways lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.
- (viii) A permanent Co-ordination Committee has been constituted between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for preventing elephant death in train accident.
- (ix) A general advisory has been issued jointly by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests on 30th March, 2010 to the General Managers of North Frontier (NF), East Cost and Southern Railways with a request to implement the suggested measures.
- (x) Advisory on implementation of measures to mitigate the impact of power transmission lines and other power infrastructure on elephant and other wildlife

issued by Ministry of Power to all DISCOMs and TRANSCOs has been circulated to all States/UTS on 16th September, 2022.

- (xi) Inter-ministerial meeting convened regularly with the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power to holistically address the issue of accidental death of elephant due to train hit and electrocution.
- (xii) Critical elephant habitats are notified as 'Elephant Reserve' for focus and synergy in elephant conservation and to reduce conflict. The notification is carried out with the approval of Steering Committee formed in the Ministry. So far 33 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 major elephant States.
- (xiii) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in coordination with the State Forest Departments, have ground-validated 150 elephant corridors across 15 elephant range states in India and informed the State Governments/UT Administrations to take necessary steps to protect and conserve the elephant corridors.
- (xiv) A field manual for frontline staff to manage Human Elephant Conflict was released during the 16th meeting of the Steering Committee on 29th April, 2022.
- (xv) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- (xvi) Regional coordination meeting for the Eastern Region to address Human-Elephant Conflict was conducted on 19th January, 2023 at Kolkata.
- (xvii) Ministry with the help of Wildlife Institute of India has identified railway stretches which are sensitive for train-elephant collision and for appropriate mitigation measures after joint surveys with railways.
- (xviii) Ministry also released a Guidelines for Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation-Taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach (2023) for addressing human-elephant conflicts.
- (xix) Capacity Building Workshops for different stakeholders were organized time to time to sensitize them on matter related to minimization of human elephant conflict.

ANNEXURE

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1379 RAISED BY DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS REGARDING 'HUMAN-INDUCED AND NATURAL DEATHS OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 14.12.2023.

Elephant casualties in train accidents during last five years

S.No.	State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Assam	2	2	5	8	7
2	West Bengal	6	5	0	0	1
3	Tamil Nadu	0	0	1	3	0
4	Jharkhand	0	1	1	0	1
5	Kerala	1	3	0	0	2
6	Odisha	7	1	4	3	3
7	Tripura	NR	0	0	0	0
8	Uttarakhand	1	2	NR	NR	1
9	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	2	0	1	1	0
	Total	19	14	12	15	15

* NR- Information not received from State.

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S.No.	State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	5	1	NR	5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	NR	1
3	Assam	9	11	13	12	8
4	Chhattisgarh	6	2	7	4	9
5	Jharkhand	1	5	5	4	6
6	Karnataka	9	8	9	7	15
7	Kerala	6	4	2	6	7
8	Maharashtra	0	0	NR	0	0
9	Meghalaya	0	5	0	1	1
10	Nagaland	4	2	1	1	0
11	Odisha	24	9	8	13	26
12	Tamil Nadu	10	15	9	5	14
13	Tripura	NR	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	3	3	0	2	0
15	Uttarakhand	3	2	NR	NR	3
16	West Bengal	4	5	10	2	5
Total		81	76	65	57	100

*NR- Information not received from State.

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S.No	State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	NR	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	NR	0
3	Assam	0	0	0	0	2
4	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
5	Jharkhand	1	1	0	0	0
6	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
7	Kerala	0	1	1	0	0
8	Maharashtra	0	0	NR	0	0
9	Meghalaya	1	4	7	0	3
10	Nagaland	0	0	2	0	0
11	Odisha	2	3	2	1	8
12	Tamil Nadu	1	0	2	3	1
13	Tripura	NR	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
15	Uttarakhand	1	0	NR	NR	0
16	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
Total		6	9	14	4	14

***NR- Information not received from State.**

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Elephant casualties due to poisoning during the last five years

S.No.	State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	NR	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	NR	0
3	Assam	8	0	1	6	2
4	Chhattisgarh	0	0	1	0	1
5	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0
6	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
7	Kerala	1	0	0	0	0
8	Maharashtra	0	0	NR	0	0
9	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
10	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
11	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0
12	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
13	Tripura	NR	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
15	Uttarakhand	NR	0	NR	NR	0
16	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	1
Total		9	0	2	6	4

***NR- Information not received from State.**