

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2763
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

Elephants conservation

2763 SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) year-wise and State-wise data on elephant deaths across India during the last five years, including the causes of these deaths;
- (b) the specific measures being taken by Government to address the increasing number of elephant fatalities and to mitigate the causes; and
- (c) whether Government has allocated funds for elephant conservation programmes and habitat restoration, and if so, the details of funds allocated and utilized during the last five years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a)to(c) The State-wise details of elephant deaths due various reasons like train hits, electrocution, poaching and poisoning, during the last five years, as per the information received from States, are enclosed as **Annexure-I**. 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-elephant conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life and elephants.

In addition, Ministry has taken the following measures to prevent elephant deaths:-

- (i) The Ministry is providing financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Project Tiger & Elephant (CSS-PT&E) for protection of elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of man-elephant conflict and welfare of captive elephants in the country. The details of fund allocated to the States/UTs under the CSS-PT&E and utilisation thereon by the State/UTs under the scheme, during the last 5 years, is given in **Annexure-II**.
- (ii) Other various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat 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. 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) An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February, 2021. The advisory recommends coordinated inter-departmental 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.

(iv) 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.

(v) 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' (2016) to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railways lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.

(vi) 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 (i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal) in India and informed the State Governments/UT Administrations to take necessary steps to protect and conserve the elephant corridors.

(vii) 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.

(viii) 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. Further, the manual has been translated in local languages.

(ix) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.

(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) Ministry also released a Guidelines for Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation-Taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach (2023) for addressing human-elephant conflicts.

- (xii) 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. WL-21/4/2023 WL dated 22nd December, 2023, which includes increase in ex-gratia from ₹5lakh to ₹10 lakh in case of death by wild animals.
- (xiii) 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.
- (xiv) 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.
- (xv) A Recommended Operating Procedure for capture and translocation of elephants in distress and conflicts released during the World Elephant Day 2024.
- (xvi) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Mainstreaming Management of The Elephant Reserves” was conducted on 13 -15th March, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xvii) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Minimizing the Impact of the Railway on Elephants and Other Wildlife” for the officials of Indian Railways was conducted on 23-25th November, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xviii) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Mainstreaming Management of The Elephant Reserves was conducted on 28- 29th November, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xix) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Exploring solution for minimizing electrocution risk and promoting wildlife safety across power infrastructure in India” was conducted on 11- 13th January, 2024 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xx) A capacity building workshops on "Minimizing Electrocution Risks and Promoting Wildlife Safety Across Power Infrastructure in India" and "Minimizing the Impact of the Railway on Elephants and Other Wildlife" from 20 - 22nd November, 2024 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

ANNEXURE-I

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2763 RAISED BY SMT. RANJEET RANJAN REGARDING 'ELEPHANTS CONSERVATION' DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2024

Elephant casualties in train accidents during last five years

S.No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Assam	2	5	8	7	2
2	West Bengal	5	0	0	1	4
3	Tamil Nadu	0	1	3	0	0
4	Jharkhand	1	1	0	1	1
5	Kerala	3	0	0	2	0
6	Odisha	1	4	3	3	5
7	Tripura	0	0	0	0	1
8	Uttarakhand	2	NR	NR	1	4
9	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	0	1	1	0	0
	Total	14	12	15	15	17

* NR- Information not received from State.

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Elephant casualties due to electrocution during last five years

S.No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	1	NR	5	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	NR	1	0
3	Assam	11	13	12	8	11
4	Chhattisgarh	2	7	4	9	10
5	Jharkhand	5	5	4	6	10
6	Karnataka	8	9	7	15	13
7	Kerala	4	2	6	7	10
8	Maharashtra	0	NR	0	0	2
9	Meghalaya	5	0	1	1	1
10	Nagaland	2	1	1	0	1
11	Odisha	9	8	13	26	15
12	Tamil Nadu	15	9	5	14	6
13	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	3	0	2	0	1
15	Uttarakhand	2	NR	NR	3	1
16	West Bengal	5	10	2	5	7
	Total	76	65	57	100	94

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

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Elephant casualties due to poaching during the last five years

S.No	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	NR	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	NR	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	0	2	1
4	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
5	Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	0
6	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
7	Kerala	1	1	0	0	0
8	Maharashtra	0	NR	0	0	0
9	Meghalaya	4	7	0	3	0
10	Nagaland	0	2	0	0	0
11	Odisha	3	2	1	8	3
12	Tamil Nadu	0	2	3	1	4
13	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
15	Uttarakhand	0	NR	NR	0	0
16	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	9	14	4	14	9

*NR- Information not received from State.

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Elephant casualties due to poisoning during the last five years

S.No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	NR	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	NR	0	0
3	Assam	0	1	6	2	1
4	Chhattisgarh	0	1	0	1	0
5	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0
6	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
7	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
8	Maharashtra	0	NR	0	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	0	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
15	Uttarakhand	0	NR	NR	0	0
16	West Bengal	0	0	0	1	0
Total		0	2	6	4	1

*NR- Information not received from State.

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Fund allocated and utilized under Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger & Elephant

Sl . N o.	States	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24*	
		Allocated	Utilized	Allocated	Utilized	Allocated	Utilized	Allocated	Utilized	Allocated	Utilized
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127.03	85.51	77.28	58.628	20.5565	39.2085	0.00	10.72	149.421	118.051
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	103.26831	101.27	282.256	253.056	157.7615	186.599	26.8875	26.8875	1119.9145	1119.9145
3.	Assam	0.00	256.68752	35.284	0.00	126.716	80.50	167.40	167.39909	2619.30784	2583.38251
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.785	0.00	0.00	29.71110	292.855	215.165
5.	Jharkhand	131.586	137.3556	111.86522	143.07	86.682	77.14962	78.05	44.82	405.785	405.785
6.	Karnataka	319.64799	366.62	330.40376	423.23	261.195	241.0278	97.8453	104.087	2613.0834	2612.7746
7.	Kerala	312.2736	532.41	574.56	574.56	580.96765	523.19	270.09	282.24	996.22425	932.97425
8.	Maharashtra	44.1944	24.76	17.98	12.84	0.00	0.00	28.524	28.524	2614.45167	2533.7686
9.	Meghalaya	177.8976	177.8976	9.36	9.36	141.75	141.75	32.14	32.14	65.25	65.25
10.	Nagaland	213.9498	213.9498	92.50	92.50	219.7215	192.978	235.575	235.575	337.77	337.77
11.	Odisha	319.1328	376.78814	577.99	588.24	567.045	510.38646	212.7695	265.57195	1012.58764	1009.70243
12.	Tamil Nadu	275.1576	265.841	0.00	0.00	181.8464	174.151	85.9405	115.218	2547.96648	2495.6725
13.	Tripura	45.38	42.53	24.71	UC NR**	0.00	20.78266	7.36516	11.8125	27.0855	24.61896
14.	Uttar Pradesh	37.74	34.44	0.00	0.00	45.993	48.288	9.858	11.763	1031.9767	1031.9767
15.	Uttarakhand	417.312	365.63	204.85	156.70	244.12375	235.94802	18.7415	57.465	1495.5241	1440.2141
16.	West Bengal	113.254	108.03694	64.1958	64.16352	87.8717	81.70052	30.05	35.01201	522.58101	517.05995
17.	Rajasthan	35.28	24.00	0.00	0.00	15.18	16.98606	6.18609	11.40	968.3004	845.76763
18.	Bihar	57.02752	59.71	39.08	1.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.8665	308.9825	297.81324

1 9.	Haryan a	13.44	13.44	11.04	11.04	4.234 5	4.2345	17.40	17.40	26.10	26.10
2 0.	Manip ur	10.944	10.94 4	0.00	0.00	5.40	5.40	0.00	5.40	14.121	14.121
2 1.	Madhy a Prades h	13.695	6.66	0.00	0.00	12.61 3	12.16	11.388	15.389	4303.7 94	4290.9 94
2 2.	Mizora m	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	144.00	144.00
2 3.	Telang ana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.30 8	323.30 8
2 4.	Himac hal Prades h	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.61	UC NR**
Total		2768.2	3204.	2453.3	2388.8	2784.	2592.4	1336.2	1531.4	23959.	23386.
		1062	4806	5478	6752	4425	4014	1055	0165	99999	18397

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Project Elephant” and Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Project Tiger” has been merged and now known as Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Project Tiger & Elephant”.

** Utilization Certificate not received from State.
