

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1002
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Human-elephant conflicts

1002. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether human-elephant conflicts have increased in recent years;
- (b) if so, the number of animals killed and human fatalities during the last three years;
- (c) the number of elephant corridors;
- (d) whether elephant corridors are increasingly being blocked by human settlements, railways and construction projects;
- (e) if so, the steps taken to tackle such obstacles;
- (f) whether project elephant suffers from gross underfunding; and
- (g) if so, the co-ordinated strategy to be taken for States with elephant population focusing on accurate census data, maintaining migration routes and ensuring adequate food and water in elephant habitats?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) The details of human casualties due to elephant attack and elephant deaths due to various reasons like train hits, electrocution, poaching and poisoning, during the last three years, as per the information received from States, are enclosed as **Annexure**.
- (c)to(g) 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 the country and informed the State Governments/UT Administrations to take necessary steps to protect and conserve the elephant corridors. The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations. The State Forest Departments are working with the local community to address the HEC issues through periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on human-animal conflict including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, State Forest Departments are engaging with local communities to monitor the

movement of elephants and to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life, property and elephants.

In addition, Ministry is providing financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger & Elephant for protection of elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of man-elephant conflict and welfare of captive elephants in the country. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, have been merged as per the decision of the Expenditure Finance Committee which was further approved by the Cabinet and named viz. Centrally Sponsored Scheme -Project Tiger & Elephant (CSS-PT&E). The merger of the schemes facilitates better allocation of resources, synergy in activities and it also allows the managers for a focused approach in conserving both the species. Moreover, now States have to submit only one Annual Plan of Operations (APO) combining the activities to be under Project Tiger and Project Elephant so that financial assistance may be expedited.

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.

ANNEXURE

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1002 RAISED BY SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI REGARDING 'HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 13.02.2025.

Human casualties due to elephant attack

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
No. of human casualties	549	605	629

Elephant casualties due to various reasons like train hits, electrocution, poaching and poisoning

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Train hit	15	15	17
Electrocution	62	100	94
Poaching	4	14	9
Poisoning	6	4	1