

# CONSERVATION OF ELEPHANT

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## POACHING OF ELEPHANTS

06<sup>th</sup> August 2014

LSQ 3936

NALIN KUMAR KATEEL  
KARANDLAJE KM. SHOBHA  
CHINNARAJ SHRI GOPALAKRISHNAN  
MAHATO SHRI BIDYUT BARAN  
SIMHA SHRI PRATHAP

Will the Minister of **ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether unnatural deaths including killing of elephants have been reported from various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard and steps taken for protection of elephants; and
- (d) the funds released for protection of elephants and restoration of elephant corridors separately, State-wise?

### **MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The details of elephant deaths due to train hits, electrocution, poaching and poisoning, state-wise, as per the available records in the Ministry, for the last three years are at Annexure I.

(c) Important action taken by the Government for protection of Elephant are as below:

(i) Joint advisories have been issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and Ministry of Railways (MoRs) to all the concerned states to take precautionary measures to avoid deaths of elephants by speeding trains. These are as following:

1. Clearance of Vegetation on the sides of Railway tracks.
2. Underpasses/overpasses across the Railway track to allow elephants to escape.
3. Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers.
4. Sensitising programmes for Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters.
5. Engagement of Elephant trackers by Ministry of Environment and Forests and communication with Station Masters.
6. To keep Railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants.

(ii) A committee for strengthening of Elephant Reserves and Elephant Corridors has been constituted in January, 2013 as per one of the decisions in the 6th meeting of National Board of Wildlife.

(iii) The Central Government has been providing financial assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Project Elephant” since 1992, for following activities:

1. Protection of Elephant with establishment of anti-poaching camps, reward to informers and expenses on intelligence gathering etc.
2. Protection of Elephant Habitat and Corridors.
3. Eliciting Public Support Services including Eco-development.
4. Improvement of support Services (including monitoring, training and research).
5. Captive Elephant management and welfare.

(iv) A Steering Committee has been constituted by the Ministry to monitor and review the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Elephant.

(v) A network of 28 Elephant Reserves has been established by the States for better management of wild elephants.

(vi) Elephant is included under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for priority protection and management.

(d) Details of State-wise release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Project Elephant” during the last three years are at Annexure II.

**ANNEXURE I**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3936  
REGARDING 'POACHING OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 06.08.2014.**

S. No	State/UTs	2011-12				2012-13				2013-14				2014-15
		Train hit	Electrocution	Poaching	Poisoning	Train hit	Electrocution	Poaching	Poisoning	Train hit	Electrocution	Poaching	Poisoning	Train hit
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	7	5	1	3	0	11	2	3	0	2	1	1	0
4	Chhattisgarh	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
5	Jharkhand	1	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	0
6	Karnataka	0	15	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
7	Kerala	0	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

8	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Meghalaya	0	3	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
10	Nagaland	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0
11	Odisha	2	13	4	4	10	13	4	3	1	3	2	1	0
12	Tamil Nadu	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0
13	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15	Uttarakhand	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
16	West Bengal	3	3	0	1	4	1	1	0	9	2	2	0	2
	Total	13	48	6	11	16	59	7	6	13	16	7	2	2

## Annexure II

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3936 REGARDING  
'POACHING OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 06.08.2014.**

**State-wise release of funds under Centrally-sponsored Scheme " Project Elephant" during the last three year.**

**Rs. in lakhs**

		<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>State/UTs</b>	<b>Amount Released</b>	<b>Amount Released</b>	<b>Amount Released</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	11.28	-
2	Arunachal Pr.	55.00	-	83.48
3	Assam	200.00	250.00	173.00
4	Chhattisgarh	150.00	60.29	49.622
5	Jharkhand	105.87	59.512	95.655
6	Karnataka	261.83	240.296	325.412
7	Kerala	282.55	294.89	252.90
8	Maharashtra	20.29	20.47	18.682
9	Meghalaya	128.52	106.875	101.00
10	Nagaland	25.00	18.75	21.75
11	Orissa	214.60	210.00	257.60
12	Tamil Nadu	228.49	250.312	211.00
13	Tripura	6.00	5.77	9.766
14	Uttar Pradesh	49.30	14.76	-
15	Uttarakhand	141.99	161.46	115.068
16	West Bengal	224.50	91.865	97.626
17	Haryana	-		30.97
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2093.94</b>	<b>1796.53</b>	<b>1843.531</b>

## **PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS**

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

LSQ 1937

LAXMAN GILUWA  
GADDIGOUDAR SHRI PARVATAGOUDA CHANDANAGOUDA  
SINGH SHRI SUNIL KUMAR

Will the Minister of **ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether incidents of elephant deaths due to accidents on railway tracks after being hit by moving trains in various National Parks and forests have been reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has any projects/programmes for the restoration of elephant corridors in the country and if so, the details thereof including the critical corridors identified in the country; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to protect wild elephants and their habitats in the country?

### **MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) & (b) The details of elephant deaths due to train hits, state-wise, as reported by the States, for the current and the last three years are at Annexure I.

(c) The Government has taken the following measures in consultation with Ministry of Railways to prevent accidental deaths of elephants:

(i) A general advisory was issued jointly to all the railway zones suggesting measures to prevent collision of trains with wild elephants. These are as following:

- Clearance of Vegetation on the sides of Railway tracks.
- Underpasses/overpasses across the Railway track to allow elephants to escape.
- Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers.
- Sensitization programmes for Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters.
- Engagement of Elephant trackers by MoEF and communication with Station Masters.

- To keep Railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants.

(ii) A permanent coordination committee has been constituted jointly by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests to share information and monitor the implementation of the advisory.

(iii) Ministry of Railways has also been requested to regulate the speed of trains in identified vulnerable sections.

(iv) Nodal officers have been designated in State Forest Departments and Railways in the vulnerable sections to facilitate quick sharing of information.

(d) Under the Centrally-sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant" (CSS-PE) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests financial assistance is provided to the states, for inter alia the following activities in elephant habitats and corridors:-

- Improvement of habitats / corridors by enrichment plantation/eco restoration
- Removal of invasive species
- Creation of water bodies/ salt licks
- Fire protection measures
- Eco-restoration of corridors/migration routes and paths including acquisition and relocation
- Soil and water conservation measures 138, 28 and 17 State, inter-State and international elephant corridors have been identified, respectively. The State-wise details in this regard are at Annexure II. Out the above corridors 88 have been identified as priority ones.

(e) Elephant is included under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The Central Government is providing financial assistance to States under the Centrally-sponsored Scheme Project Elephant since 1992, for protection and management of elephants and its habitat. The Elephant range States have taken various activities to mitigate Man-Elephant conflict, improvement of Elephant Habitat, restoration of Elephant Corridors and various awareness programmes under the scheme. Some of the activities are as follows:

- For better management of wild Elephants and their habitats, 28 Elephant Reserves have been established by the States
- Habitat improvement and restoration of Elephant Corridors in Elephant Range States under CSS-PE.
- (iii) Infrastructure improvement in Elephant Reserves for effective management of elephant population.

- Anti depredation squads, anti poaching squads and trekkers are engaged for protection of elephants.
- To restrict menace of elephants to human habitations, solar fencing, trenches and stone walling are being provided in the depredation prone localities.
- Studies on various issues such as man animal conflict, carrying capacity of elephant habitat are encouraged.
- (vii) Awareness programme among the local villagers are taken to minimize conflict with wild elephants.

#### **ANNEXURE I**

#### **ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1937 REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.07.2014.**

#### **ELEPHANT CASUALTIES IN TRAIN ACCIDENTS**

<b>State</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Assam	7	0	0	
West Bengal	3	4	9	2
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	
Jharkhand	1	0	1	
Kerala	0	0	1	
Odisha	2	10	1	
Tripura	0	0	0	
Uttarakhand	0	2	0	
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>

#### **ANNEXURE II**

#### **ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1937 REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.07.2014.**



**List of identified elephant corridors**

<b>State Corridor</b>		<b>Inter-State Corridor</b>		<b>International Corridor</b>	
<b>State</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>2 Countries</b>	<b>Number</b>
Meghalaya	26	Jharkhand– Odisha	8	Indo-Bangladesh	6
Odisha	21	Arunachal– Assam	4	Indo- Bhutan	4
Tamilnadu	19	Karnataka– Tamilnadu	4	Indo- Myanmar	4
Assam	15	Assam– Nagaland	3	Indo – Nepal	3
West Bengal	14	Jharkhand – West Bengal	3		
Kerala	12	Arunachal– Nagaland	2		
Karnataka	9	Jharkhand– M.P.	1		
Arunachal Pradesh	8	Odisha–W. Bengal	1		
Jharkhand	6	Karnataka– Kerala	1		
Uttrakhand	5	Kerala-Tamilnadu	1		
Uttar Pradesh	3				
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>