

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1808
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

Death of elephants in Elephant Corridors crossing railway lines

1808. SHRI VAIKO:

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

- (a) whether Government has neglected the elephant corridors in the various connected railway divisions and hence, elephants continue to die on railway tracks;
- (b) whether the High Courts have adversely commented on the sad state of affairs and if so, the response of Government;
- (c) the details of short-term and long-term measures taken to protect elephants dying on the railway tracks;
- (d) whether any Centrally Sponsored Project for elephant for a permanent mitigation plans in various rail sections mooted, if so the details thereof; and
- (e) other measures taken to protect elephants by using technology such as infrared equipment etc.?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a)&(b) No sir.

- (c) As per information received from the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), a number of short-term and long-term measures have been taken in coordination with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change to prevent elephant deaths in railway tracks. The preventive measures undertaken include the following:
 - (i) 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.
 - (ii) Imposition of permanent and temporary speed restrictions in identified elephant corridors.
 - (iii) Wildlife Institute of India 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 electric transmission lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.

- (iv) Construction of underpasses and ramps for the movement of elephants at identified locations.
 - (v) Provision of fencing at selected locations.
 - (vi) Provision of signage board to warn loco pilots about identified elephant corridors.
 - (vii) Sensitization of train crew and Station Masters on a regular basis.
 - (viii) Need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of track within railway land.
 - (ix) Deputing Forest Department staff in Railway control offices to liaison with Railway and engagement of elephant trackers by Forest Department for timely action by alerting Station Masters and Loco Pilots.
 - (x) Frequent coordination meetings between State Forest Department and Railway department.
- (d)&(e) The Ministry has provided financial support to Uttarakhand Forest Department under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Elephant' for a pilot project on "Intelligent elephant movement detection and alert system" to detect movement of elephants approaching railway tracks through seismic sensors.
