

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 985
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

Captive Elephants in India

985. Ms. SUSHMITA DEV:

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

- (a) the details of captive elephants in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of these elephants that are owned by private individuals, religious trusts, state bodies, and other institutions;
- (c) the States where these elephants were held captive and the number of these that have been transported across state borders;
- (d) death of captive elephant each year during the past five years, the details thereof; and
- (e) measures that have been taken to comply with the Supreme Court's ban on commercial trade in elephants, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)&(b) The details of captive elephants in the country as on January, 2019, as per the information received from States/UTs are enclosed as Annexure.
- (c)&(d) The details on transport of captive elephants and death of captive elephants are not collated in the Ministry.
- (e) The management of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 enacted by the Government of India prohibit transfer by way of sale or offer for sale or by any other mode of consideration of commercial nature.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 985 RAISED BY MS. SUSHMITA DEV REGARDING 'CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS IN INDIA' DUE FOR REPLY ON 15.12.2022.****DETAILS OF CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS IN THE COUNTRY AS ON JANUARY, 2019**

S.No.	State	Captive elephant in Forest Department Possession	Zoo/ Rehabilitation	Elephants in Private Custody	Grand Total
1.	Haryana	-	3	1	4
2.	Delhi	-	-	4	4
3.	Kerala	39	-	479	518
4.	West Bengal	100	0	0	100
5.	Tamil Nadu	49	3	86	138
6.	Odisha	13	8	0	21
7.	Uttar Pradesh	25	20	73	118
8.	Karnataka	98	38	48	184
9.	Rajasthan	-	-	113	113
10.	Jharkhand	10	0	0	10
11.	Assam	150	3	752	905
12.	Puducherry	-	-	2	2
13.	Bihar	5	2	59	66
14.	Meghalaya	2	0	6	8
15.	Punjab	3	0	13	16
16.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
17.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
18.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
19.	Maharashtra	Not furnished	2	11	13
20.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
21.	Goa	0	0	10	10
22.	Andhra Pradesh	0	6	0	6
23.	Tripura	4	0	60	64
24.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	63	0	0	63
25.	Chhattisgarh	9	-	0	9
26.	Gujarat	-	-	52	52
27.	Uttarakhand	28*	-	-	28
28.	Madhya Pradesh	60	1	38	99
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	109#
30.	Nagaland	1	0	14	15
Total		659	86	1821	2675

* 7 private elephant under the possession of State Forest Department due to High Court Uttarakhand order

Government of Arunachal Pradesh has 109 captive elephants, however the detail of elephants has not been provided by the states.

- No specific information provided.