

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *83
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

Death of animals and humans by electrocution in and around forest

83. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) the number of forest officers employed at each forest and sanctuary under Government;
- (b) the number of deaths of wild animals and humans in the country due to electrocution from illegal electric fences put up by farmers;
- (c) whether Forest Officers take note of such illegal electric fencing during rounds in the forests and if so, the details of the number of illegal electric fences found in and around forest areas; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to prevent deaths of forest animals by electrocution from illegal electric fences?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) AND (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *83 REGARDING DEATH OF ANIMALS AND HUMANS BY ELECTROCUTION IN AND AROUND FOREST BY DR. FAUZIA KHAN FOR REPLY ON 09.02.2023.

- (a) Posting of forest officers in forest areas and sanctuaries is the responsibility of States/UTs. Information relating to the number of forest officers employed in forest areas and sanctuaries is not compiled by the Ministry.
- (b) As per information received from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), the number of cases of deaths of wild animals due to electrocution during the last three years are as under:

Year	Number of cases	No. of wild animals died due to electrocution
2019	22	23
2020	10	19
2021	16	18

Information relating to deaths of humans in the country due to electrocution is not compiled by the Ministry.

- (c) Management of forests and wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Forest Departments. Details relating to electric fences in and around forest areas are not compiled by the Ministry.
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to prevent deaths of forest animals by electrocution include the following:
- i. The Ministry has issued advisories to States/UTs on management of human-wildlife conflict.
 - ii. The Ministry has issued guidelines on eco-friendly measures to mitigate impact of linear infrastructure in order to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including electric transmission lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflict.
 - iii. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has issued an advisory to States to deal with the mortality of tigers and sympatric species due to electrocution. Regular guidelines/directions/SOPs are issued by NTCA for protection and management of wildlife.
 - iv. Based on analysis of cases in which wild animals have died due to electrocution, WCCB has issued advisories to States/UTs to prevent the death/poaching of wild animals due to electrocution.

- v. Financial assistance is provided by the Ministry to States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for activities like creation of awareness, establishment of anti-poaching camps, improvement of habitat etc.
- vi. The Ministry has requested user agencies to take necessary steps to comply with Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 and to maintain minimum ground clearance for electric transmission lines to prevent deaths of wild animals due to electrocution.
