

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1167**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

**Addressing the killing of a pregnant elephant in Jhargram**

1167. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the recent Jhargram incident where spiked rods and fireballs were used to drive elephants, killing a pregnant elephant despite the Supreme Court's 2018 ban;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that the West Bengal State Forest Department employs and pays untrained local youths to deter elephants;
- (c) actions taken by Government against those using banned methods, and officials held accountable, if any; and
- (d) measures implemented by Government to ensure compliance with the Supreme Court's ban on spiked rods and fireballs by "Hulla" parties and prevent further elephant cruelty?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) As per the report received from the State of West Bengal necessary legal action as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been taken against the offenders responsible for such heinous crime. Two (2) accused has been arrested in a joint raid operation of forest department and police on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2024. Both the accused have been sent for judicial trail at the Court of Ld. CJM, Jhargram. Further, as reported by the State, the West Bengal State Forest Department does not employ and pay untrained local youths to deter elephants.

The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs Administration. Moreover, Ministry issued an advisory on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, to all States/UTs, emphasizing the prohibition of practices like hulla parties, creating noise, or using crackers and fire to forcibly drive away elephants.

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