

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1975
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

Elephant deaths in Bandhavgarh National Park

1975 SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

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

- (a) the details of financial and technical assistance under Project Elephant to Madhya Pradesh, in light of the 10 elephant deaths during 29-31 October at the Bandhavgarh National Park;
- (b) whether the Ministry has re-considered, in light of the recent events, establishing a statutory National Elephant Conservation Authority to strengthen administrative focus on elephant conservation, similar to the National Tiger Conservation Authority; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Ministry is providing financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Project Tiger & Elephant (CSS-PT&E) for protection of elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of man-elephant conflict and welfare of captive elephants in the country as per the Annual Plan of Operations submitted by the States/UTs in the respective financial year. The Ministry has released financial assistance of ₹2213.976 lakhs to the State of Madhya Pradesh in the current financial year 2024-25 under the said scheme. The Ministry has released financial assistance of ₹7.51 lakhs to the State of Madhya Pradesh in current financial year for Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve under the Project Elephant component.

Further, a technical committee was constituted by the Ministry to assess the situation of human-elephant conflict in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and adjoining areas. The report submitted by the committee had been forwarded to the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) of Madhya Pradesh on April 8, 2024 for immediate consideration and implementation.

- (b)&(c) The constitution of National Elephant Conservation Authority (NECA), in line with existing National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), was discussed during the 74th Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (SC NBWL) and it was decided that there is no need for the constitution of NECA consequent to the merger of both the Centrally

Sponsored Scheme namely Project Tiger (PT) and Project Elephant (PE) as Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Project Tiger & Elephant (CSS-PT&E) for resource maximization and also due to creation of a new division called 'Project Tiger & Elephant (PT&E) Division' to strengthen the functioning and execution of both the projects in synergy.
