

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 121
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

Railway and highway stretches passing through eco-sensitive zones

*121. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals received for clearances of highways, railway tracks and other physical infrastructure projects through eco-sensitive zones, wildlife corridors, national parks and tiger reserves;
- (b) the number of wild animal deaths of elephants, tigers and leopards recorded due to railway collisions and road accidents during the last three years, State-wise and species-wise;
- (c) the details of railway and highway stretches identified as high-risk for wildlife movement, along with the mitigation measures; and
- (d) the number of dedicated wildlife overpasses, underpasses, eco-ducts, canopy bridges, fencing systems or speed-control interventions constructed, so far, on such sensitive stretches?

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) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 121 REGARDING ‘RAILWAY AND HIGHWAY STRETCHES PASSING THROUGH ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES’ BY SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY DUE FOR REPLY ON 11.12.2025

(a) to (d) The number of proposals received by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for prior recommendation of the proposals for highways, railway tracks and other physical infrastructure projects through eco-sensitive zones, wildlife corridors, national parks and tiger reserves in the past three years is as given below:

S.No	Year	Number
1.	2023	83
2.	2024	61
3.	2025	57
	Total	201

All proposals are examined and after due scrutiny by the Ministry and National Tiger Conservation Authority, in the case of Tiger Reserves and Tiger Corridors, are placed before the Standing Committee for National Board for Wild life for its recommendations after considering all factors the availability of alternative sites, mitigation measures and management oriented conditions.

The management of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. The State Government/Union Territory Administration is the first responder in wild animal deaths and maintains the data related to such incidents and the species involved. The death of elephants and tigers due to collisions in the past three years is placed at **Annexure I** and **II**.

Ministry has published a comprehensive report titled “Suggested Measures to Mitigate Elephant & Other Wildlife Train Collisions on Vulnerable Railway Stretches in India”. The details of railway stretches prioritised on the basis of intensity of wildlife use and threat of wildlife mortality is as given below;

S.No.	Particulars	Details
1.	Total railway stretches surveyed (kms)	127 stretches (3,452.4 km)
2.	Sensitive railway stretches identified in elephant range	110 stretches
3.	Sensitive railway stretches identified in tiger range states	17 stretches
4.	Railway stretches prioritized for mitigation in 14 states	77 (1,965.2 km)

On the basis of the study above the following mitigation structures have been suggested;

S. No.	Type of Structure	Number Proposed
1.	Ramps and level crossings	503
2.	Bridge extensions and modifications	72
3.	Fencing / barricading / trenching structures	39
4.	Exit ramps	4
5.	New underpasses	65
6.	Overpasses	22
	Total	705

Annexure I

	State wise Elephant death due to collisions in the last three years			
State	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Assam	7	2	3	12
West Bengal	1	4	0	5
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	1	1	2	4
Kerala	2	0	2	4
Odisha	3	5	3	11
Tripura	0	1	1	2
Uttarakhand	1	4	0	5
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	1
Karnataka	0	0	0	0
Total	15	17	12	44

Annexure II

	State wise Tiger death due to collisions in the last three years					
State	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	Road hit	Rail hit	Road hit	Rail hit	Road hit	Rail hit
Maharashtra	1	1	2	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	2		3		1	