

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 708
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026

Human-elephant conflict mitigation

708. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of wild elephants in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of wild elephants that are currently trackable, State-wise;
- (c) the details of technologies used for tracking wild elephants;
- (d) whether the Ministry plans to utilize such technologies for conflict mitigation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of wild elephants tranquilised, captured or killed due to instances of human-elephant conflict?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The State-wise details of wild elephants in the country, as per the latest “Status of Elephants in India: DNA-Based Synchronous All India Population Estimation (SAIEE) 2022-25” is provided in **Annexure-I**. This nationwide estimate uses DNA-based mark-recapture for the first time in India; given the methodological changes, it is not comparable to past figures and may be treated as a new monitoring baseline for further research, monitoring and estimation.

The data on wild elephants that are trackable are not collated in the Ministry.

The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs Administration.

The Government of India, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under Project Elephant, is supporting the use of modern technologies for tracking and conflict mitigation. Technologies such as GPS and radio collaring of wild elephants, AI-enabled camera traps, thermal cameras, early-warning sensor systems, drone-based surveillance, and mobile-based alert applications are being implemented in select human-elephant conflict-prone areas to monitor elephant movement patterns and facilitate timely preventive action.

Further, the State of Tamil Nadu has implemented an Artificial Intelligence-based surveillance system, while the State of Odisha has initiated AI-enabled camera surveillance in the Rourkela Forest Division to prevent elephant accidents on railway tracks. In addition, as per information received from the State of Assam, the Indian Railways has installed Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) using Distributed Acoustic System (DAS) technology at various locations in the State.

The data on elephants tranquilised and captured are not collated at the Ministry. However, the details of elephant casualties due to various causes, such as train accidents, electrocution, poaching and poisoning, as reported by the States/UTs during 2024-25, are provided in **Annexure-II**.

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 708 RAISED BY SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY REGARDING 'HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT MITIGATION' DUE FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2026.

State-wise wild elephants in the country as per the report “*Status of Elephants in India: DNA Based Synchronous All India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE)*”

Sl.No.	State/Landscape	Population	SE **	Lower 95% CI*	Upper 95% CI
1.	Karnataka	6,013	623	4,792	7,235
2.	Tamil Nadu	3,136	229	2,688	3,585
3.	Kerala	2,785	208	2,378	3,193
4.	Jharkhand	217	35	149	286
5.	Odisha	912	170	579	1,246
6.	Madhya Pradesh	97	19	60	135
7.	Chhattisgarh	451	79	297	606
8.	Maharashtra (Western Ghats & Gadchiroli)	63	8	48	79
9.	West Bengal (South)	31	5	22	41
10.	Andhra Pradesh	120	9	103	138
11.	Uttarakhand	1,792	148	1,502	2,083
12.	Uttar Pradesh	257	37	103	330
13.	Bihar	13	NA	NA	NA
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	617	32	555	680
15.	Assam	4,159	390	3,395	4,924
16.	Manipur	9	1	8	11
17.	Meghalaya	677	47	585	770
18.	Mizoram	16	1	13	18
19.	Nagaland	252	23	207	298
20.	Tripura	153	7	140	167
21.	West Bengal (North)	676	69	541	812
	Total	22,446	2,140	18,255	26,645

*CI : Confidence Interval

** SE : Standard Error

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Elephant casualties due to train hit, electrocution, poaching and poisoning

Cause of elephant casualty	No. of casualties (2024-25)
Train hit	12
Electrocution	104
Poaching	14
Poisoning	4