

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2920
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

Safe elephant corridors in Chhattisgarh

2920. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

- (a) whether the newly established Centre of Excellence in Coimbatore is conducting any specific scientific study to mitigate conflict in the Lemru Elephant Reserve and other corridors in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) whether the Central Government is formulating any action plan for developing new safe elephant corridors and preventing railway accidents in the State using the data of the study; and
- (c) the quantum of central financial assistance provided to the Chhattisgarh Forest Department during the current financial year for procurement of drones, thermal sensors and AI-based monitoring technologies?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), has completed a comprehensive study on human-elephant conflict in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, including measures for conflict mitigation. Further, the Ministry has initiated the preparation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs) for Human-Elephant Conflict, adopting a landscape-level and multi-State approach. The RAP is envisaged as a five-year action plan with annual implementation targets covering habitat management, capacity building, monitoring and conflict mitigation measures.

Further, the Ministry has identified and validated 150 elephant corridors across 15 elephant range States, including Chhattisgarh, and has advised the concerned State Governments to take necessary steps for their protection and conservation.

To address elephant-train collisions, the Ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of Railways and State Forest Departments, has prepared a comprehensive report titled "*Suggested Measures to Mitigate Elephant & Other Wildlife Train Collisions on Vulnerable Railway Stretches in India*". The report recommends 705 mitigation structures across 77 prioritized railway stretches and has been shared with the Ministry of Railways and the concerned State Governments for appropriate action.

(c): Financial assistance is provided 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 human-elephant conflict and welfare of captive elephants in the country. Assistance is provided based on the Annual Plan of Operation submitted by the respective State Governments. During the current financial year, an amount of Rs.2.33 crores has been sanctioned to the State of Chhattisgarh which *inter alia* includes financial assistance for technology based initiatives.