

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1040
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Death of Elephants due to Train Accidents

1040. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

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

- (a) whether since 1987 to till date about 290 elephants have died due to train accidents;
- (b) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 2.9.2014 had directed the Railways to take steps to ensure protection of wildlife and also that the action to be taken against the erring drivers causing such accidents;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of elephants died since the Supreme Court's order and the number of cases registered against such loco pilots along with the total number of them punished since September 2014?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Elephant death records due to train accidents are not available in the Ministry since 1987. However the elephant death due to train accidents, as per the information received from various states, during the year 2009-10 to 2018-19 is 153.
- (b) & (c) Yes Madam. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Writ Petition W.P. (C) No. 107 of 2013 Shakti Prasad Nayak Vs. Union of India & Ors. in its order dated 2.9.2014, the Hon'ble court passed following orders:
 - (i) Necessary steps should be taken by the Railways all over the country to reduce the speed limit of running trains that are passing through dense forests. In case a speed limit is not followed/ appropriate action should be taken against the erring drivers and officials concerned.
 - (ii) Railways to take steps to discontinue the movement of goods trains at night between Siliguri and Alipurduar.
 - (iii) Divert fast moving and night trains through Siliguri -Falakata route.
- (d) The total number of elephants died due to train accidents since 2014-15 is 68 (till 31.12.2018). As per the information received from the States 13 cases have been registered against loco pilots wherein, Assam 2, Odisha 5 and Kerala 6. There is no information received regarding punishment to loco pilots by the Railway Department.
