

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2012
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022

Elephant Deaths

2012. SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) the details of elephant deaths occurred due to non-natural causes like electrocution, accidents etc. during the last five years, State-wise and category-wise including the State of West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Government is taking any steps to prevent such deaths; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) As per the information received from States, the details of elephant deaths occurred due to unnatural causes like train accident, electrocution, poaching and poisoning during the last five years, including West Bengal are enclosed as Annexure-I, II, III and IV respectively.

(b)&(c) The management of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs Administration.

In addition, the following measures taken by Ministry also help in prevention of elephant deaths due to unnatural reasons:-

- (i) The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant' for protection and conservation of elephants and their habitats in the country.
- (ii) To reduce human-elephant conflict and to avoid retaliatory killing of elephants, compensation is provided to local communities for loss of their property and life caused by wild elephants. The Ministry has notified enhancement of ex-gratia rates related to wildlife depredation vide letter No. 14-2/2011 WL-I (part) dated 9th February, 2018.

- (iii) The States/UTs and Power Transmission agencies have been requested to take necessary steps for compliance of Electricity Rules & Regulations and to maintain minimum ground clearance for electric transmission lines for minimizing death of elephants due to electrocution.
- (iv) Advisory on implementation of measures to mitigate the impact of power transmission lines and other power infrastructure on elephant and other wildlife issued by Ministry of Power to all DISCOMs and TRANSCOs has been circulated to all States/UTS on 16th September, 2022.
- (v) A general advisory has been issued jointly by Ministry of Railways (MoRs) and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on 30th March, 2010 to the General Managers of NF, East Cost and Southern Railways with a request to implement the suggested measures.
- (vi) Wildlife Institute of India in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank Group has published a document namely ‘ Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure’ to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railways lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.
- (vii) A guideline for Management of Human Elephant Conflict has been issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017 and elephant range states have been requested for implementation of the same.
- (viii) Critical elephant habitats are notified as ‘Elephant Reserve’ for focus and synergy in elephant conservation and to reduce conflict. The notification is carried out with the approval of Steering Committee formed in the Ministry. So far 32 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 major elephant States.
- (ix) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for stringent punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- (x) A field manual for frontline staff to manage Human Elephant Conflict was released during the 16th meeting of the Steering Committee on 29th April, 2022.

ANNEXURE –I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2012 RAISED BY SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY REGARDING ‘ELEPHANT DEATHS’ DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2022.

ELEPHANT CASUALTIES IN TRAIN ACCIDENTS FROM 2017-18 TO 2021-22

| S.No. | State | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Assam | 10 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | West Bengal | 2 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Tamil Nadu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 5 | Kerala | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Odisha | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 7 | Tripura | 0 | NR | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Uttarakhand | 5 | 1 | 2 | NR | NR |
| 9 | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Karnataka | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Total | 20 | 19 | 14 | 12 | 15 |

*NR- Information not received from State.

ANNEXURE –II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2012 RAISED BY SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY REGARDING ‘ELEPHANT DEATHS’ DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2022.

ELEPHANT CASUALTIES BY ELECTROCUTION FROM 2017-18 TO 2021-22

| S.No. | State | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | NR |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | NR | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR |
| 3 | Assam | 24 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 12 |
| 4 | Chhattisgarh | 2 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| 5 | Jharkhand | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| 6 | Karnataka | 10 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 7 | Kerala | 4 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | Maharashtra | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR | 0 |
| 9 | Meghalaya | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 | Nagaland | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | Odisha | 9 | 24 | 9 | 8 | 13 |
| 12 | Tamil Nadu | 11 | 10 | 15 | 9 | 5 |
| 13 | Tripura | 0 | NR | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 15 | Uttarakhand | 3 | 3 | 2 | NR | NR |
| 16 | West Bengal | 2 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 2 |
| | Total | 69 | 81 | 76 | 65 | 57 |

*NR- Information not received from State.

ANNEXURE -III

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2012 RAISED BY SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY REGARDING 'ELEPHANT DEATHS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2022.

ELEPHANT CASUALTIES BY POACHING FROM 2017-18 TO 2021-22

| S.No | State | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | NR | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR |
| 3 | Assam | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Chhattisgarh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Jharkhand | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Karnataka | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Kerala | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 8 | Maharashtra | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR | 0 |
| 9 | Meghalaya | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| 10 | Nagaland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 | Odisha | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 12 | Tamil Nadu | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| 13 | Tripura | 0 | NR | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Uttarakhand | 0 | 1 | 0 | NR | NR |
| 16 | West Bengal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 8 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 4 |

*NR- Information not received from State.

ANNEXURE -IV

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2012 RAISED BY SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY REGARDING 'ELEPHANT DEATHS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2022.

ELEPHANT CASUALTIES BY POISONING FROM 2017-18 TO 2021-22

| S.No. | State | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|--------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | NR | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR |
| 3 | Assam | 6 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | Chhattisgarh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 5 | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Karnataka | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Kerala | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Maharashtra | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR | 0 |
| 9 | Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Odisha | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Tamil Nadu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Tripura | 0 | NR | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Uttarakhand | 0 | NR | 0 | NR | NR |
| 16 | West Bengal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 8 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 6 |

*NR- Information not received from State.