

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2023

Death of Elephants

3169. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Odisha has lost as many as 245 elephants in three years after they have fallen prey to the poachers during the period;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has sought any report in this regard from the State Government;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to direct the State Government to be more cautious in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details of the response, if any, received from the Odisha Government;
- (e) the details of number of elephants that have died due to accident in the country during last five years;
- (f) the details of number of elephants died in Odisha, district-wise;
- (g) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry to reduce the elephant death due to accident, if so, the details thereof;
- (h) the details of loss of property and life occurred due to wild elephants and the steps taken by Government to reduce man-animal conflict; and
- (i) the details of steps taken by the Government to reduce man-animal conflict?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the information received from the State of Odisha, only six (6) cases of elephant deaths, due to poaching, have been reported in the State, during the last three years (2019-20 to 2021-22).
- (b) to (d) Reports are sought from State Governments on case to case basis. Further, to inspect the recent death of elephants in the State of Jharkhand and Odisha a High Level committee was constituted by the Ministry to enquire the deaths and action taken by the State Forest Department. The High Level committee submitted its report to the Ministry with various recommendations for managing the problem and reducing the deaths of

elephants in the state of Jharkhand and Odisha. The recommendations were forwarded to the State of Odisha for taking necessary action for implementation of the recommendations suggested by the High Level committee.

- (e) The State-wise details of elephant casualties due to train accident during the last five years, as per the information received from States, are enclosed as **Annexure –I**.
- (f) District-wise data of elephant deaths in the State Odisha, as per the information received from the State, are enclosed as **Annexure-II**.
- (g) The Ministry had constituted a committee to review the deaths of elephants due to train hit in the Tamil Nadu and Kerala in compliance of Hon’ble NGT direction dated 8th July, 2021. The Committee submitted its report to the Ministry in September 2021 suggesting recommendations to be taken up by Railways, State Forest Departments (SFDs) of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to prevent death of elephants due to train hits. The report submitted by the committee has been circulated to the SFDs, Railways and other concerned stakeholders to take appropriate measures to prevent death of elephants due to train hits.
- (h)&(i) The details of loss of property occurred due to wild elephants attack is not collated in the Ministry. The State-wise details of human casualties due to elephant attack during the last five years, as per the information received from States, are enclosed as **Annexure – III**. The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs Administration. The state forest departments are working with the local people to address the HEC issues through periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on man-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, Forest Departments are engaging with local communities as animal trackers to monitor the movement of elephants and also to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life and elephants.

In addition, the following measures taken by Ministry also help in mitigation of human-animal conflict:-

- (i) The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats, ‘Project Tiger’ and ‘Project Elephant’ for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country.
- (ii) To reduce man-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) Various other Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by this Ministry contribute to the improvement in the natural habitat of elephants by augmenting water sources, planting of fodder trees, regeneration of bamboo etc. Such

schemes include Development of Wildlife Habitat and Project Tiger. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and the Rules made there under also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, including for elephants, establishment of animal rescue centres, etc. which also contribute to reduction in HEC.

- (iv) 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.
- (v) An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February 2021. The advisory recommends coordinated interdepartmental action, identification of conflict hot spots, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of rapid response teams, formation of State and District level committees to review the quantum of ex-gratia relief, issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments, and provision of adequate funds for suitable portion of ex-gratia relief to be paid within 24 hours to the affected persons in the case of death and injury to persons.
- (vi) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3rd June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflicts including damage to crops. It includes promotion of crops in forest fringe areas which are unpalatable to wild animals, agro forestry models which include cash crops like chillies, lemon grass, khus grass etc. suitably mixed with tree/shrub species. It also includes preparation and implementation of comprehensive long-term plan for alternate cropping by the state Agriculture/Horticulture Department under different schemes in vulnerable areas.
- (vii) 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 33 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 major elephant States.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- (x) A Capacity Building Workshop for Railway Officials Training the Trainers: A special online training programme for sensitizing officials of the Indian Railways' Training Institutes towards India's wildlife and rich biodiversity was conducted on 19th September, 2022.
- (xi) Regional coordination meeting for the Eastern Region to address Human-Elephant Conflict was conducted on 19th January, 2023 at Kolkata.
- (xii) A Capacity Building Workshop on "Minimizing Railway-induced Elephant Mortalities for the Officers of the Indian Railways" was conducted on 1st -3rd February, 2023.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3169 RAISED BY SHRI JAI PRAKASH REGARDING 'DEATH OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2023.

Elephant Casualties due to Train Accidents

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 (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3169 RAISED BY SHRI JAI PRAKASH REGARDING 'DEATH OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2023.****Elephant deaths in Odisha from 2017-18 to 2021-22**

SL No.	Name of District	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
1	Angul	10	10	11	6	12	49
2	Balasore	1	3	2	4	4	14
3	Bargarh	0	2	2	0	1	5
4	Bhadrak WL	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bolangir	1	2	1	2	0	6
6	Boudh	1	0	0	1	0	2
7	Cuttack	11	9	2	3	7	32
8	Deogarh	2	5	1	4	6	18
9	Dhenkanal	19	17	16	6	13	71
10	Gajapati	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Ganjam	3	4	2	2	4	15
12	Jajpur	0	2	1	1	0	4
13	Jagatsinghpur	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jharsuguda	3	6	1	0	0	10
15	Kalahandi	0	3	3	7	7	20
16	Kandhamal	3	2	1	0	0	6
17	Kendrapada	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Kendujhar	5	6	8	8	9	36
19	Khordha	1	0	6	4	2	13
20	Koraput	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Malkanagiri	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Mayurbhanj	5	10	7	10	7	39
23	Nabarangpur	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Nayagarh	1	1	2	0	0	4
25	Nuapada	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Puri	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Rayagada	1	1	0	0	0	2
28	Sambalpur	4	1	10	7	8	30
29	Subarnpur	0	0	2	2	2	6
30	Sundargarh	7	9	4	10	4	34
	Total	78	93	82	77	86	416

ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (h)&(i) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3169 RAISED BY SHRI JAI PRAKASH REGARDING 'DEATH OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2023.

Human casualties due to elephant attack

S.No.	State	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andhra Pradesh	6	7	4	6	NR
2	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	0	0	0	2
3	Assam	72	84	75	91	63
4	Chhattisgarh	74	61	77	42	64
5	Jharkhand	84	87	84	74	133
6	Karnataka	22	12	29	23	17
7	Kerala	15	27	12	20	25
8	Maharashtra	0	1	1	NR	0
9	Meghalaya	7	3	4	6	3
10	Nagaland	0	1	0	0	0
11	Odisha	105	72	117	93	112
12	Tamil Nadu	49	47	58	57	37
13	Tripura	0	NR	2	1	2
14	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	6	1	0
15	Uttarakhand	5	3	NR	NR	NR
16	West Bengal	66	52	116	47	77
Total		506	457	585	461	535

*NR- Information not received from State.