

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3194
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2023

Elephant-Human Conflict

3194. SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:

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

- (a) the estimated number of elephants living in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the elephant-human conflict has been on the rise during the last few years and the deaths occurred as a result thereof, both elephant and human during the last three years and the current year,
- (c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the same;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to update and review the elephant corridors across the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be done?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The State-wise details of elephant population estimation are at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) The State-wise details of human casualties due to wild elephant attack and elephant casualties due to unnatural causes like train accident, electrocution, poaching and poisoning during the last three years, as per the information received from States, are enclosed as **Annexure –II** and **Annexure –III** respectively.
- (c) 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 elephant conflict:-

- (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 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) 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.
 - (vi) 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.
 - (vii) 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.
 - (viii) Regional coordination meeting for the Eastern Region to address Human-Elephant Conflict was conducted on 19th January, 2023 at Kolkata.
 - (ix) A Capacity Building Workshop on "Minimizing Railway-induced Elephant Mortalities for the Officers of the Indian Railways" was conducted on 1st -3rd February, 2023.
- (d)&(e) The Ministry, in coordination with the State Forest Departments, has initiated the process for groundtruthing of Elephant corridors in India, so as to create a better connectivity between the different landscape and elephants herds for maintaining genetic diversity.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3194 RAISED BY SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU REGARDING ‘ELEPHANT-HUMAN CONFLICT’ DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2023.

Population of wild elephants as reported by States

REGION	STATE	ELEPHANT POPULATION
North-East	Arunachal Pradesh	1614
	Assam	5719
	Meghalaya	1754
	Tripura	102*
	Nagaland	446*
	West Bengal (North Region)	488
	Manipur	9
	Mizoram	7
	Total for North-East	10,139
East Central Region	Odisha	1976
	Jharkhand	679
	Chhattisgarh	247
	Bihar	25
	Madhya Pradesh	7
	West Bengal (South Region)	194
	Total for East Central Region	3128
North West Region	Uttarakhand	1839
	Uttar Pradesh	232
	Haryana	7
	Himachal Pradesh	7
	Total for North West Region	2085
South Region	Karnataka	6049
	Kerala	5706*
	Maharashtra	6
	Andhra Pradesh	65
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25*
	Tamil Nadu	2761
	Total for South Region	14612
GRAND TOTAL		29964

The total census figures for West Bengal is 682 (North Bengal (488) + South Bengal(194)).

* Results are based on indirect (dung) count method as direct counts could not be carried out as informed by State& UTs like Kerala, Nagaland, Tripura and A&N Islands.

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3194 RAISED BY SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU REGARDING 'ELEPHANT-HUMAN CONFLICT' DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2023.

Human casualties due to elephant attack during the last three years

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

*NR- Information not received from States.

ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3194 RAISED BY SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU REGARDING ‘ELEPHANT-HUMAN CONFLICT’” DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2023.

Elephant Casualties due to Train Accidents during the last three years

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

***NR- Information not received from State.**

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Elephant Casualties due to Electrocutation during the last three years

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

*NR- Information not received from State.

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Elephant Casualties due to Poaching during the last three years

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

*NR- Information not received from State.

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Elephant Casualties due to Poisoning during the last three years

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

*NR- Information not received from State.