

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1314
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

Gajah Report

1314. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps on the recommendations of the Elephant Task Force Report (Gajah Report) submitted in 2010 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has decided to set up a National Elephant Conservation Authority and implement Project Elephant on the lines of existing National Tiger Conservation Authority and Project Tiger;
- (c) the status of eco-sensitive zones and 'no-go' zones in elephant reserves, along with measures taken to protect elephant habitats from potential threats posed by infrastructural projects;
- (d) the budget allocation and utilisation for elephant conservation and protection including a breakdown of expenditures for various conservation activities;
- (e) total number of elephants kept in human captivity State-wise apart from the zoological parks in the country, State-wise; and
- (f) the number of elephants who died of electrocution during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has taken steps on the recommendations of the Elephant Task Force report, 2010 'Gajah'. The constitution of National Elephant Conservation Authority (NECA), in line with existing National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), was discussed during the 74th Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (SC NBWL) and it was decided that there is no need for the constitution of NECA consequent to the merger of both the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Project Tiger (PT) and Project Elephant (PE) as Project Tiger & Elephant (PT&E) for resource maximization and also due to creation of a new

division called 'Project Tiger & Elephant (PT&E) Division' to strengthen the functioning and execution of both the projects in synergy.

- (c) 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. These Elephant Reserves overlap with Tiger Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Reserved Forests which are protected under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other State local Acts. The activities related to infrastructure development projects are regulated as per the existing Acts, Rules and Guidelines.
- (d)to(f) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is providing financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes Project Tiger & Elephant for protection of elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of man-elephant conflict and welfare of captive elephants in the country. Details of the budget allocated and utilized for the above said activities are given in **Annexure-I**. The details of the captive elephants in the country apart from zoological parks, as on January, 2019 and details of elephant casualties due to electrocution between 2018-19 to 2022-23, as reported by the states, are given in **Annexure-II and Annexure-III** respectively.

ANNEXURE -I

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1314 RAISED BY SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI REGARDING 'GAJAH REPORT' DUE FOR REPLY ON 11.12.2023.

Budget allocated and released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme –Project Tiger & Elephant

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure
2020-21	35.00	25.00	24.96
2021-22	33.00	32.00	30.26
2022-23	35.00	16.36	16.30
2023-24*	336.80	245.00	75.70 (as on 06.12.2023)

* The Project Tiger and Project Elephant Scheme has been merged from FY 2023-24 and now known as Project Tiger & Elephant.

ANNEXURE -II

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1314 RAISED BY SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI REGARDING 'GAJAH REPORT' DUE FOR REPLY ON 11.12.2023.

Captive Elephant Population in the country

S.No.	State	Elephant in Private Custody
1.	Haryana	1
2.	Delhi	4
3.	Kerala	518
4.	West Bengal	100
5.	Tamil Nadu	135
6.	Odisha	13
7.	Uttar Pradesh	98
8.	Karnataka	146
9.	Rajasthan	113
10.	Jharkhand	10
11.	Assam	902
12.	Puducherry	2
13.	Bihar	64
14.	Meghalaya	8
15.	Punjab	16
16.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
17.	Chandigarh	0
18.	Lakshadweep	0
19.	Maharashtra	11
20.	Manipur	0
21.	Goa	10
22.	Andhra Pradesh	0
23.	Tripura	64
24.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	63
25.	Chhattisgarh	9
26.	Gujarat	52
27.	Uttarakhand	28
28.	Madhya Pradesh	98
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	109
30.	Nagaland	15
Total		2589

ANNEXURE -III

REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1314 RAISED BY SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI REGARDING 'GAJAH REPORT' DUE FOR REPLY ON 11.12.2023.

Elephant Casualties due to Electrocutation during the last five years

S.No.	State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	5	1	NR	5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	NR	1
3	Assam	9	11	13	12	8
4	Chhattisgarh	6	2	7	4	9
5	Jharkhand	1	5	5	4	6
6	Karnataka	9	8	9	7	15
7	Kerala	6	4	2	6	7
8	Maharashtra	0	0	NR	0	0
9	Meghalaya	0	5	0	1	1
10	Nagaland	4	2	1	1	0
11	Odisha	24	9	8	13	26
12	Tamil Nadu	10	15	9	5	14
13	Tripura	NR	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	3	3	0	2	0
15	Uttarakhand	3	2	NR	NR	3
16	West Bengal	4	5	10	2	5
Total		81	76	65	57	100

*NR- Information not received from State.