

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1338
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

Death of Elephants due to Electrocutation

1338. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

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

- (a) whether it is true that 82 elephants died in 2021-22 due to unnatural reasons, out of which 57 elephants died due to electrocution;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has collaborated with relevant authorities, like electricity boards and wildlife conservation agencies, to develop guidelines and protocols to mitigate the risk of electrocution of elephants;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any progress has made in raising awareness among local communities and stakeholders about the importance of elephant conservation and the need to prevent incidents of electrocution and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether any financial allocations have been made by the Government to address this issue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)to(f) As per the information received from States, the number of elephant deaths in the year 2021-22 due to various reasons are given below:

Year	2021-22			
Reasons of death	Train Accidents	Electrocution	Poaching	Poisoning
No. of elephant death	15	57	4	6
Total elephant death	82			

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 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in collaboration of Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power has taken following measures to minimize accidental deaths of elephant:-

- (i) The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Tiger & Elephant' for protection and conservation of species and their habitats in the country.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Inter-ministerial meeting convened regularly with the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power to holistically address the issue of accidental death of elephant due to train hit and electrocution.
- (iv) A permanent Co-ordination Committee has been constituted between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for preventing elephant death in train accident.
- (v) The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun 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.
- (vi) 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.
- (vii) A general advisory has been issued jointly by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests on 30th March, 2010 to the General Managers of North Frontier (NF), East Cost and Southern Railways with a request to implement the suggested measures.
- (viii) 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.

- (ix) The Ministry had constituted a committee to review the deaths of elephants due to train hit in the Tamil Nadu and Kerala states 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.
- (x) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in coordination with the State Forest Departments, have ground-validated 150 elephant corridors across 15 elephant range states in India and informed the State Governments/UT Administrations to take necessary steps to protect and conserve the elephant corridors.
- (xi) 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.
- (xii) Imposition of permanent and temporary speed restrictions in identified elephant corridors and habitats.
- (xiii) A pilot project on "Intelligent elephant movement detection and alert system" to detect movement of elephants approaching railway tracks through seismic sensors has been initiated in Rajaji Tiger Reserve.
- (xiv) Ministry also released a Guidelines for Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation-Taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach (2023) for addressing human-elephant conflicts.
- (xv) Construction of underpasses and ramps for the movement of elephants at identified locations.
- (xvi) Capacity Building Workshops for different stakeholders were organized time to time to sensitize them on matter related to minimization of human elephant conflict.
