

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2590
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Elephant Deaths due to Train Accidents

2590. SHRI NITESH GANGA DEB:

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

- (a) whether the incidence of elephant deaths due to train accidents have increased in the country in recent years;
- (b) if so, the details of such deaths during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has issued any direction to the Government to minimise the elephant deaths due to train accidents; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome achieved as a result thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a)&(b) As per the information received from States, the number of elephants killed in train accident has been showing a declining trend. The State-wise and year-wise details of elephant deaths due to train hits is at **Annexure**.
- (c)&(d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 2.9.2014 in Writ Petition W.P. (C) No. 107 of 2013 Shakti Prasad Nayak Vs. Union of India & Ors., issued the following directions:
 - (i) Necessary steps should be taken by the Railways all over the country to reduce the speed limit of running trains that are passing through dense forests. In case a speed limit is not followed/ appropriate action should be taken against the erring drivers and officials concerned.
 - (ii) Railways to take steps to discontinue the movement of goods trains at night between Siliguri and Alipurduar.
 - (iii) Divert fast moving and night trains through Siliguri -Falakata route.

As per information received from the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), a number of measures are taken by Zonal Railways in coordination with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change which have resulted in saving of elephants. The preventive measures undertaken include the following:

- (i) Imposition of permanent and temporary speed restrictions in identified elephant corridors.

- (ii) Provision of signage board to warn loco pilots about identified elephant corridors.
- (iii) Sensitization of train crew and Station Masters on a regular basis.
- (iv) Need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of track within railway land.
- (v) Construction of underpasses and ramps for movement of elephants at identified locations. Work is in progress at one more location in East Central Railway.
- (vi) Installation of Honey Bee sound system to scare away the elephants from coming near the track.
- (vii) Provision of fencing at isolated locations both by Railway and Forest Department.
- (viii) Deputing Forest Department staff in Railway control offices to liaison with Railway and engagement of elephant trackers by Forest Department for timely action by alerting Station Masters and Loco Pilots.
- (ix) Frequent coordination meetings between State Forest Department and Railway department.

Due to concerted efforts taken by the Central and State Governments the elephant deaths by train accidents has been reducing in the recent years.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2590 RAISED BY SHRI NITESH GANGA DEB REGARDING 'ELEPHANT DEATHS DUE TO TRAIN ACCIDENTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 6.03.2020.

Elephant Casualties in Train Accidents from 2016-17 to 2018-19

S.No.	State	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	Assam	10	10	2
2	West Bengal	3	2	6
3	Tamil Nadu	2	0	0
4	Jharkhand	2	0	0
5	Kerala	2	0	1
6	Odisha	0	2	7
7	Tripura	0	0	NR
8	Uttarakhand	2	5	1
9	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	0	1	2
	Total	21	20	19