

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 717
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

Deaths of Animals on Railway Tracks

717. SHRI MAHESH SAHOO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of death of many wild animals including elephants while crossing railway tracks passing through different reserve sanctuaries in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the total number of such incidents reported during the last five years;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to create special corridors for movement of animals across railway tracks and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any plan has been envisaged to regulate the movement of trains passing through the sanctuaries particularly during night or construct elevated tracks along the route and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures taken by the Government in preventing such incidents?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As informed by the Government of Odisha, the details of deaths of wild animals including elephants reported during the last five years in Odisha are given in **Annexure I**.
- (c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued an advisory to States/UTs requesting that proposals for linear infrastructure, including railway projects, for consideration by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife should be accompanied by an Animal Passage Plan and other mitigation measures prepared on case to case basis in consultation with the State Chief Wild Life Warden on the basis of the document - 'Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife', prepared by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. These guidelines suggest modifications in the designs of linear infrastructure which will ensure safe movement of wildlife.

- (e) Other measures taken by the Government for preventing such incidents are as follows:
- i. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been notified all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats. The total number and area coverage of protected areas has increased from 759 and 161974.90 km² respectively in 2015 to 903 and 1,65,012.59 km² respectively in 2020.
 - ii. In order to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are also notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - iii. The Ministry extends financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Centrally Sponsored schemes(CSS) of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH), for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species of animals/birds and improvement of their habitat.

ANNEXURE-I
ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 717 REGARDING “DEATHS OF ANIMALS ON
RAILWAY TRACKS” BY SHRI MAHESH SAHOODUE FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2021

Year	Elephant	Bear	Spotted deer	Honey badger	Wild Boar
2015-16	1	-	-	-	1
2016-17	-	-	-	-	-
2017-18	2	1	-	-	-
2018-19	7	-	5	1	-
2019-20	1	1	2	-	-
Total	11	2	7	1	1
