

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2856
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

Death of Wild Animals by Electrocutation

2856. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:

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

- (a) whether the Government takes cognizance of the serious issue of death of wild animals by deliberate electrocution using uninsulated wire traps by poachers;
- (b) if so, the steps that has been taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether there have been any efforts to decrease chances of accidental electrocution of wild animals and if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Protection and management of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/ UTs Administration. As per information available with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), the number of cases of death of wild animals due to electrocutions and the accused arrested during last three years are as under:

Year	Number of cases	No. of Accused arrested
2019	22	61
2020	10	8
2021	16	30

- (b) & (c) The steps taken by the Government to manage human-animal conflict and decrease the chances of accidental electrocution of wild animals, include the following:
 - i. Financial assistance is provided by the Ministry to States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant for activities like creation and maintenance of water holes for wild animals in Protected Areas, soil and moisture

conservation measures, establishment of anti-poaching camps, strengthening wildlife veterinary care, eradication of weeds, creation and maintenance of fire lines, deployment of Tiger Protection Force and special Tiger Protection Force etc.

- ii. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and the Rules made thereunder also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, establishment of animal rescue centers, etc.
- iii. Wildlife Institute of India, in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank Group, has published guidelines on eco-friendly measures to mitigate the impacts of linear infrastructure to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including electric transmission lines.
- iv. User agencies have been requested to comply with electricity rules and regulations and to maintain minimum ground clearance for electric transmission lines in order to minimize deaths of elephants due to electrocution.
- v. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued generic guidelines for formulating a Security Plan for each tiger reserve which is operationalized in the overarching Tiger Conservation Plan which is legally mandated under section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- vi. WCCB has issued advisories to States/UTs to prevent deaths of wild animals due to electrocution.
