

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1128**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

**Human-Elephant Conflict**

1128. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:  
SMT. SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to understand the causes of human-elephant conflict in the country especially in the States of West Bengal and Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has collected data on the deaths of humans as well as elephants due to such conflicts in the said States, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the measures aimed at mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict in the country including West Bengal and Odisha?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a)&(b) The Ministry has not conducted any study to understand the human-elephant conflict in the State of Odisha and West Bengal. However, as per information provided by the State Governments/UTs Administration, the following studies were conducted to understand the causes of human-elephant conflict and the damage done in their respective areas:

- As per the information provided by the Government of Karnataka, a Karnataka Elephant Task Force was constituted which submitted its report in 2012. The report highlighted the major causes of Human-Elephant Conflict due to fragmentation of habitats, habitat loss, change in cropping pattern etc.
- Another study was conducted during 2019 on “Assessment and prediction of spatial patterns of human-elephant conflicts in changing land cover scenarios of a human-dominated landscape in North Bengal” funded by the National Mission on Himalayan Studies, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on the following: (a) spatial factors and landscape variables responsible for conflicts, (b) identify human activities which make them vulnerable to such incidents, (c) identify hotspots of conflicts, and (d) assess major land use/land cover changes.

- (c) & (d) The State-wise details of human casualties due to elephant attack and elephant deaths due to various reasons like train hits, electrocution, poaching and poisoning, during the last five years, as per the information received from States, are enclosed as **Annexure-I** and **Annexure- II** respectively.

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 human-animal conflict including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, State Forest Departments are engaging with local communities to monitor the movement of elephants and to caution local people to avoid human-animal conflict, prevent damage or loss of human life, property and elephants.

In addition, Ministry has taken the following measures to help in mitigation of human-elephant conflict:-

- (i) The Ministry is providing financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 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.
- (ii) Other various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat being implemented by this Ministry contribute to the improvement in the natural habitat of elephants by augmenting water sources, planting of fodder trees, regeneration of bamboo etc. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and the Rules made there under also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, including for elephants, establishment of animal rescue centres, etc. which also contribute to reduction in HEC.
- (iii) An advisory on dealing with human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry in February, 2021. The advisory recommends coordinated inter-departmental action, identification of conflict hot spots, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of rapid response teams, formation of State and District level committees to review the quantum of ex-gratia relief, issuing guidance/instructions for expedited payments, and provision of adequate funds for suitable portion of ex-gratia relief to be paid within 24 hours to the affected persons in the case of death and injury to persons.
- (iv) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflicts including damage to crops. It includes promotion of crops in forest fringe areas which are unpalatable to wild animals, agro forestry models which include cash crops like chillies, lemon grass, khus grass etc. suitably mixed with tree/shrub species. It also includes preparation and implementation of comprehensive long-term plan for alternate cropping by the state Agriculture/Horticulture Department under different schemes in vulnerable areas.

- (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' (2016) to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railways lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.
- (vi) 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 (i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal) in India and informed the State Governments/UT Administrations to take necessary steps to protect and conserve the elephant corridors.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) A field manual for frontline staff to manage Human Elephant Conflict was released during the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.
- (ix) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for dealing with human wildlife conflict situations.
- (x) A general advisory has been issued jointly by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 to the General Managers of North Frontier (NF), East Cost and Southern Railways with a request to implement the suggested measures.
- (xi) 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 TRANSCO has been circulated to all States/UTS on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.
- (xii) Ministry also released a Guidelines for Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation-Taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach (2023) for addressing human-elephant conflicts.
- (xiii) 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. WL-21/4/2023 WL dated 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023, which includes increase in ex-gratia from ₹5lakh to ₹10 lakh in case of death by wild animals.
- (xiv) 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.
- (xv) 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.

- (xvi) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Mainstreaming Management of The Elephant Reserves” was conducted on 13 -15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xvii) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Minimizing the Impact of the Railway on Elephants and Other Wildlife” for the officials of Indian Railways was conducted on 23-25<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xviii) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Mainstreaming Management of The Elephant Reserves was conducted on 28- 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (xix) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Exploring solution for minimizing electrocution risk and promoting wildlife safety across power infrastructure in India” was conducted on 11- 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

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**ANNEXURE-I**

**REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION**  
**No. 1128 RAISED BY DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY AND SMT. SANGEETA KUMARI**  
**SINGH DEO REGARDING 'HUMAN- ELEPHANT CONFLICT' DUE FOR REPLY ON**  
**29.07.2024.**

**Human Casualties Due to Elephant**

S.No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	6	NR	5	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2	0	0
3	Assam	75	91	63	80	74
4	Chhattisgarh	77	42	64	69	51
5	Jharkhand	84	74	133	96	87
6	Karnataka	30	26	27	29	48
7	Kerala	12	20	25	22	23
8	Maharashtra	1	NR	0	2	5
9	Meghalaya	4	6	3	3	7
10	Nagaland	0	0	0	1	1
11	Odisha	117	93	112	148	154
12	Tamil Nadu	58	57	37	43	61
13	Tripura	2	1	2	2	1
14	Uttar Pradesh	6	1	0	4	4
15	Uttarakhand	NR	NR	NR	4	8
16	West Bengal	116	47	77	97	99
<b>Total</b>		<b>586</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>629</b>

\* NR- Information not received from State.

**ANNEXURE-II**

**REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1128 RAISED BY DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY AND SMT. SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO REGARDING 'HUMAN- ELEPHANT CONFLICT' DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.07.2024.**

**Elephant Casualties in Train Accidents**

S.No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Assam	2	5	8	7	2
2	West Bengal	5	0	0	1	4
3	Tamil Nadu	0	1	3	0	0
4	Jharkhand	1	1	0	1	1
5	Kerala	3	0	0	2	0
6	Odisha	1	4	3	3	5
7	Tripura	0	0	0	0	1
8	Uttarakhand	2	NR	NR	1	4
9	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	0	1	1	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>

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**Elephant Casualties by Electrocution**

S.No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	1	NR	5	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	NR	1	0
3	Assam	11	13	12	8	11
4	Chhattisgarh	2	7	4	9	10
5	Jharkhand	5	5	4	6	10
6	Karnataka	8	9	7	15	13
7	Kerala	4	2	6	7	10
8	Maharashtra	0	NR	0	0	2
9	Meghalaya	5	0	1	1	1
10	Nagaland	2	1	1	0	1
11	Odisha	9	8	13	26	15
12	Tamil Nadu	15	9	5	14	6
13	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	3	0	2	0	1
15	Uttarakhand	2	NR	NR	3	1
16	West Bengal	5	10	2	5	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94</b>

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**Elephant Casualties by Poaching**

S.No	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	NR	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	NR	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	0	2	1
4	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
5	Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	0
6	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
7	Kerala	1	1	0	0	0
8	Maharashtra	0	NR	0	0	0
9	Meghalaya	4	7	0	3	0
10	Nagaland	0	2	0	0	0
11	Odisha	3	2	1	8	3
12	Tamil Nadu	0	2	3	1	4
13	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
15	Uttarakhand	0	NR	NR	0	0
16	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>

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**Elephant Casualties by Poisoning**

S.No.	State	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	NR	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	NR	0	0
3	Assam	0	1	6	2	1
4	Chhattisgarh	0	1	0	1	0
5	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0
6	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
7	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
8	Maharashtra	0	NR	0	0	0
9	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
10	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
11	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0
12	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
13	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
15	Uttarakhand	0	NR	NR	0	0
16	West Bengal	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

\* NR- Information not received from State.

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