

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2631
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.05.2016

Killing of Tuskers

2631. SHRI G. HARI:
SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT:

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

- (a) whether a large number of elephants/tuskers die every year in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps for their protection; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken in coordination with the State Governments?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) & (b) It is estimated that on an average around 100 elephants die every year.
- (c) & (d) Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala in collaboration with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and other agencies has last year busted a big nexus elephant poachers and ivory smugglers in the country, leading to identification of 18 elephant carcasses, 538 Kilograms of ivory/ ivory products, arrest of 63 offenders and recovery of guns and vehicles.

Following steps are taken by the Government for conservation of elephants in the country:

- (i) Financial and technical assistance is provided to 16 elephant range states under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Elephant'.
- (ii) The State has notified good elephant habitats as "Elephant Reserves", for better conservation and management of elephants. So far 29 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 States.
- (iii) Elephant is included under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to provide it highest degree of legal protection.
- (iv) Improvement of elephant habitat, including Elephant Reserves and Corridors is carried out regularly.
- (v) Regular and extensive patrolling of forest areas and anti poaching measures by frontline field staff of the State Forest Departments.

- (vi) Trainings and awareness camps are organised regularly for local people for conservation of elephants and other wildlife.
- (vii) Local communities are organised into Joint Forest Management Committees/Eco-development Committees for protection of elephant habitat, including elephant corridors.
