

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 87
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023**

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY TRACKS

***87. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:
SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of death of humans/ elephants/ animals that occurred on railway tracks and were reported from 2014 till date, State/ zone/ year-wise;**
- (b) whether the Government has taken cognizance of high number of elephant deaths on railway tracks in the country, particularly in Assam during recent years;**
- (c) if so, whether any general advisories have been issued to curb such accidental deaths;**
- (d) whether inspections have been carried out to verify implementation of these advisories, if so, the details thereof along with the penalties imposed for non-compliance;**
- (e) whether under-passes/ ramps track diversion/ enforcement of speed limits have been undertaken to prevent such death of humans and animals; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with other measures taken in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 87 BY SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI AND SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.02.2023 REGARDING ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY TRACKS

(a): The State-wise number of deaths of human reported on railways as provided in Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI) data published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for the last 8 years i.e. 2014 to 2021 are appended as Appendix-I. Figures for the year 2022 and the current year have not been published by NCRB.

The Zone-wise details of death of elephants on railway tracks during the last 9 years i.e. 2014 to 2022 are appended as Appendix-II.

The desired information regarding number of animal deaths occurred on railway tracks from 2014 to till date is quite wide in terms of its coverage and such a data is not maintained.

(b) to (f): Yes, Sir. A General Advisory was issued jointly by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests on 30th March, 2010 to prevent train accidents involving Elephants. This advisory prescribes detailed guidelines for Railways and Forest officials and measures to mitigate deaths of animals in train accidents.

Further, Northeast Frontier Railway (N.F.Railway) has taken the following steps to mitigate the death of animals including elephants on Railway track by train hits, including the preventive measures mentioned in General Advisories to prevent train accidents involving Elephant (Jointly issued by Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change), which can be broadly classified in 4 categories: -

1. Operational Measures:

- (i) Imposition of permanent speed restrictions at 86 numbers of elephant corridors in N.F.Railway.**
- (ii) On receipt of information regarding movement of elephants, caution orders are issued to Loco Pilots to pass cautiously and be prepared to stop due to elephant movement and in addition thereto temporary speed restrictions are imposed which varies from time to time as per advice given by Forest department of respective states.**
- (iii) Deepor Beel is one of the major locations having large population of endangered Asiatic elephant. Adequate Permanent Speed Restrictions have been imposed in the section of Azra – Kamakhya, which passes through Deepor Beel.**

2. Engineering Measures:

- (i) Clearing of vegetation along railway tracks in all the identified elephant corridors within Railway area.**
- (ii) Provision of Signage boards at all the identified elephant corridors to pre-warn the loco pilots.**
- (iii) Based on a joint survey by Railways and the Forest Department of Government of West Bengal, three out of four identified works were sanctioned by Ministry of Environment and Forests to be executed by Railway on deposit term. The works executed by Railway are as under:
 - a) Construction of Passes – Passes with 20 meter width have been constructed at Km No. 66/2-3 (LH), 67/3-4 (LH), 67/8-9 (Both side), 68/0-1 (Both side) & 68/3-4 (Both side) between Chalsa and Nagrakata stations.****

- b) Construction of Ramps – Two number of earthen Ramps of 20 meter width at Km No. 128/8-9 & 130/0-2 and another one number of Ramp at Km No. 129/8-9 have been constructed between Madarihat and Hasimara stations.**
- c) Construction of Girder Bridge and Fencing – A girder bridge has been constructed at Km No. 24/6-7 and rail fencing erected at Km. No. 25/9-26/0 & 26/2-3 between Gulma and Sevok stations.**

3. Technological initiatives:

- (i) 75 number of Honey Bees sound systems have been propagated at manned level crossings, which act as a repellent to move away elephants from track.**
- (ii) Provision of electric wire fencing at elephant corridor in Dudhnoi-Krishnai section, trench of 1.5 meter deep and 1 meter wide on either side of the track in Mariani-Nakachari section for 250 meters and erection of rail fencing between Gulma and Sevok stations have been made.**
- (iii) Innovative Intrusion Detection System to detect movement of elephant across Railway track has been introduced in Lumding – Hawaipur section (24 Km) of Lumding Division in Assam commissioned in August' 22 and in Chalsa – Hasimara section (60 Km) of Alipurduar Division in West Bengal commissioned in December' 22.**

4. Other measures:

- (i) Sensitization of all loco pilots, guards, station masters and forest officials over N.F.Railway through awareness programme,**

workshops etc.

- (ii) Passengers and Pantry car staff are motivated/counseled through posters, Passenger Address system etc. not to throw any waste food etc. on the railway track which may attract wild animals on railway track.**
- (iii) Further a permanent Co-ordination Committee has been constituted between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for preventing elephant death in train accidents.**

Implementation of items of general advisory is checked during regular inspections by supervisors & officers and necessary remedial action is taken for any shortfall.

‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintaining law and order etc. on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. The State Police registers cases under Section 174 of Cr.PC in cases of unnatural deaths including unnatural deaths on railways, conducts investigation and takes further action as per law.

The following corrective measures are taken by the Railways to prevent human deaths in Untoward Incidents on Railway track:-

- (i) Railways have constituted interdepartmental ‘Joint Committee’**

comprising officers of Safety, Security, Signal & Engineering departments across all Zonal Railways to study the causes and suggest specific measures to minimise deaths due to untoward incidents including trespassing by humans. Accordingly, preventive and corrective measures are taken to improve and create infrastructure to minimise casualties.

- (ii) Regular announcements are made through Passenger Address System at Railway stations urging passengers to use foot over bridges (FOBs) and to avoid crossing of railway tracks.
- (iii) Various awareness campaigns are organized by Railways to sensitize passengers about the fatalities of crossing railway tracks, foot-board/roof-top travelling, boarding/de-boarding running trains etc.
- (iv) Regular drives are conducted against trespassing, travelling on foot-board, steps, roof top of trains, boarding/de-boarding running trains and the persons apprehended are prosecuted under the relevant provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.
- (v) Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed on locations vulnerable for trespassing.
- (vi) Erection of boundary wall/fencing at identified locations, vulnerable to trespass.
- (vii) Warning sign boards are provided at conspicuous places for the awareness of passengers.
- (viii) Unauthorized trespassing on Railway premises including the Railway track is a punishable offence under section 147 of the Railways Act, 1989. During the previous year i.e. 2022, total 124499 persons were prosecuted for trespassing on railways from whom an amount of ₹. 3.92 Cr. have been realized as fine by Hon'ble courts.

APPENDIX-I REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 87 BY SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI AND SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.02.2023 REGARDING ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY TRACKS

(a): The State/UT-wise details of number of deaths of humans reported on railways as provided in Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India(ADSI)data published by NCRB for the years 2014 to 2021 are as under:-

State/UT	Number of deaths of human reported on railways and published in ADSI during the year 2014 to 2021							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ANDHRA PRADESH	1469	1401	1396	1365	1532	1519	613	760
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASSAM	690	674	636	571	579	598	422	461
BIHAR	1089	1907	1768	1763	1807	1864	972	1314
CHHATTISGARH	664	531	507	422	428	467	331	412
GOA	34	47	41	52	39	50	23	49
GUJARAT	1191	1203	1126	1028	1022	1012	493	579
HARYANA	1380	1287	1218	2087	2149	1362	560	948
HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAMMU & KASHMIR	53	61	49	67	63	45	9	22
JHARKHAND	409	238	479	431	456	488	288	388
KARNATAKA	25	897	0	6	0	15	0	0
KERALA	413	332	384	479	431	412	201	295
MADHYA PRADESH	2020	2074	1783	1506	1548	1641	964	1275
MAHARASHTRA	5045	4719	4462	4017	3801	3916	1922	2535
MANIPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MEGHALAYA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
MIZORAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAGALAND	11	9	14	9	9	8	3	9
ODISHA	379	284	244	387	430	446	282	306
PUNJAB	1023	917	853	811	872	831	333	577
RAJASTHAN	671	695	684	581	636	775	415	655
SIKKIM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAMIL NADU	1833	1734	1831	1963	2031	2086	902	1301
TELANGANA	1073	1153	905	702	641	631	337	412
TRIPURA	0	0	14	33	23	32	25	40
UTTAR PRADESH	4369	4812	4087	3553	3788	4376	2119	2919
UTTARAKHAND	55	150	46	32	33	52	7	29
WEST BENGAL	2814	2675	2651	2833	2852	2939	1515	2402
DELHI	867	900	922	795	880	807	417	550
PUDUCHERRY	4	15	3	0	1	9	0	0

APPENDIX-II REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 87 BY SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI AND SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.02.2023 REGARDING ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY TRACKS

(a): The Zone-wise details of death of elephants on railway tracks during the last nine years i.e. 2014 to 2022 are as under:-

Railway	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
East Coast	0	1	0	0	1	2	2	3	0
Northern	0	1	1	0	3	2	2	2	0
North Eastern	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	1
Northeast Frontier	5	9	9	10	9	4	6	5	8
Southern	0	0	4	0	1	2	3	4	2
South Eastern	0	0	5	1	7	0	3	2	3
South East Central	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
South Western	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0
