GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 628
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

Elephants Death by Trains

628. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the accidental death of elephants by trains running in
     the Railways forest sections between Shoranur in Kerala and Hosur in Tamil Nadu;
(b) if so, the details of elephant deaths in these Railways sections;
(c) whether the Government has any plan to prevent the elephant accidental deaths in these
     sections; and
(d) if so, the details thereof

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b) As per the information received from the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the
         number of elephant deaths due to railway accidents in the Railways forest sections
         between Walayar Range of Palakkad Division in Kerala and Hosur in Tamil Nadu are
         as follows.

Sl.No.	Location	Year	No. of elephant death
1.	Walayar Range of Palakkad Division, Kerala	2018	1
		2019	3
		2022	2
2.	Kelamangalam Rayakottai Track, Hosur Forest Division, Tamil Nadu	2013	2
		2023	5

(c)&(d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in coordination with
         Ministry of Railways has taken number of measures to prevent elephant deaths on
         railway tracks. The preventive measures undertaken include the following:

(i) Inter-ministerial meeting convened regularly with the Ministry of Railways to holistically address the issue of rail-induced elephant mortality.

(ii) 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.

(iii) A general advisory has been issued jointly by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests on 30th March, 2010 to the General Managers of NF, East Cost and Southern Railways with a request to implement the suggested measures.

(iv) The Ministry had constituted a committee to review the deaths of elephants due to train hit in the Tamil Nadu and Kerala in compliance of Hon'ble NGT direction dated 8th July, 2021. The Committee submitted its report to the Ministry in September 2021 suggesting recommendations to be taken up by Railways, State Forest Departments (SFDs) of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to prevent death of elephants due to train hits. The report submitted by the committee has been circulated to the SFDs, Railways and other concerned stakeholders to take appropriate measures to prevent death of elephants due to train hits.

(v) The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has developed the General Guidelines for Suggesting Mitigation Measures on Railways Tracks through Elephant Habitats in India.

(vi) The Ministry consistently organizing meeting with Ministry of Railways and taking mitigation measures such as Elephant Intrusion system and Intelligent elephant movement detection and alert system. Moreover, The Ministry on 21st June, 2023 had issued a letter along with 'General Guidelines for suggesting mitigation measures on Railway Tracks through Elephant Habitats in India' to the respective states for completion of joint surveys (along with Railways and WII) of the 110 sensitive stretches of existing railway lines for construction of permanent mitigation measures to mitigate wildlife-rail collisions and finalise the appropriate mitigation measures.

(vii) Imposition of permanent and temporary speed restrictions in identified elephant corridors and habitats.

(viii) The Wildlife Institute of India 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' to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railways lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.

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