

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2261  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001  
MAINTENANCE OF ELEPHANT SANCTUARY IN ORISSA  
PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the steps taken for protecting and proper maintenance of the Elephant Sanctuary situated at Chandakha near Nandankanan in Orissa;
- (b) whether the Elephants have gone on rampage thereby killing many people living in nearby villages; and
- (c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in protecting the lives of innocent villagers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS ( SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Steps taken for protection and proper maintenance of the Chandakha Elephant Sanctuary include:

- i). Five anti poaching camps have been established and regular patrolling is being organised in and around the sanctuary.
- ii) Arrangements have been made to collect intelligence regarding forest offences and movement of elephants with the help of wireless network.
- iii) To enrich the degraded habitat sites, plantations are being taken up. Plants, which form food of elephant, are being planted.
- iv) In order to the reduce the dependence of people on the sanctuary, eco-development activities are proposed in peripheral villages.
- v) Renovation of the existing elephant proof trench and laying of new elephant proof trenches have been taken up.

(b) Housing schemes have come up very close to the reserve forests resulting in bringing the elephants to accidental encounters with human population. Because of such accidental encounters two persons have died during the year 2000 and 4 persons died during 2001. They were women and old persons who fell in the movement path of elephants.

(c) The steps taken by the Government in protecting the life of villagers include:

- i) Fencing and renovation of the trenches have been taken up to localise the elephants to assigned habitat.
- ii) Hamlets lying in the core area of the sanctuary have been proposed for relocation, which will reduce man-elephant conflict. 84 families have already been relocated.
- iii) Enrichment of plantations are done to provide sufficient food for the elephant.
- iv) Training of staff to handle elephant depredation has been organised.