

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1543
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
WILD ANIMALS HIT BY TRAINS
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) the number of elephants, chitals and other wild animals run over so far by trains on the rail line passing through Rajaji National Park;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Railways for prevention of death of wild animals, including elephants, due to the passing trains and also for their safety; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- a) As reported by the State Government of Uttaranchal 20 elephants, 26 sambhars, 19 chitals, 3 wild boars, 2 leopards, 1 goral and 2 pythons were killed due to railway accidents in Rajaji National Park between 1987 and 2002. However no death of elephants have occurred after 2002 in train accident.
- b) Yes Sir, the Ministry as well as the State Government have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Railways to resolve the issue.
- c) A Task Force consisting of the representatives of State Forest Department, Railways, Wildlife Institute of India and NGOs was constituted to suggest mitigation measures. The task force has identified fencing of 4kms of the railway track between Haridwar and Motichur Rau. The matter is under active consideration of the State Government and the Railways. During critical months night patrolling is carried out on the sensitive stretches. Signages has been erected at important points on the track to caution train drivers about the possible movement of elephants.