

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:393
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
DEATH OF ELEPHANTS
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) the number of elephants killed due to mining related activities, poaching, electrocution or revenge by angry farmers, separately, during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop the killings;
- (c) whether the steps to prevent the killing of elephants include issue of necessary directions in this regard to the licence holders of mining activities and electric fencing by the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No 393 REGARDING " DEATH OF ELEPHANTS" DUE FOR REPLY ON 30.4.2007

(a) & (b) As per the available reports, the number of elephants killed due to poaching, electrocution and man-animal conflicts during the last three years, State-wise, is given at Annexure. However, as per the information available, there are no reports on death of elephants due to mining related activity. The important steps taken to stop such killings are as given below:

- (i) Elephants are included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby affording them highest degree of protection.
- (ii) Regular patrolling by forest staff.
- (iii) Installation of wireless system with mobile facility for better communication of protection work.
- (iv) Formation of antipoaching mobile squad
- (v) Installation of antipoaching checkgates at strategic and sensitive points.
- (vi) Provision of secret funds for collection of intelligence of poachers and their activities.
- (vii) Trade in elephant ivory has been totally banned to discourage poaching of elephants for its tusk.
- (viii) The Asian Elephant is also included in the Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna & flora (CITES) which prohibits international trade in Asian Ivory.
- (ix) Efforts have been made under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ' Project Elephant' to protect and restore the migratory routes and corridor used by the elephants including development of scientific and planned management for conservation of elephant and its habitat.
- (x) Financial assistance is provided to the elephant range states by the Central Government under the scheme 'Project Elephant'.
- (xi) Promotion of measures for mitigation of man-elephant conflict in problem areas and moderating pressures of human and live stock on crucial elephant habitats is taken up.

(c), (d) & (e) Mining activities in Protected Areas are normally not permitted and discouraged around the habitats of key species. However, in case of mining in forest areas where wildlife may be present, mining lease holders are directed to take suitable measures in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden so as to check the loss to wildlife. Killing of elephants by any means including

electrocution is prohibited under the provisions of the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972. However, erection of solar fences to prevent elephant attack on both humans and standing crops is a part of the mitigative measures taken for man-animal conflict.