

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

- (a) the total funds earmarked and utilised for the conservation and protection of elephants during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has recently declared elephant as a heritage animal;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the benefits likely accrue to therefrom;
- (d) whether it is also proposed to constitute a National Elephant Conservation Authority;and
- (e) if so, the salient features thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Yes Sir. Funds earmarked and utilized for conservation and protection of elephants under the Central Sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant" are as follows:-

Financial year Outlay in Rs. crore Utilized in Rs. crore

2007-08 17.00 16.76

2008-09 21.50 21.47

2009-10 21.50 21.16

2010-11 21.50 13.36 (upto Oct 2010)

(b)& (c) Yes Sir. It has been done with the objective of giving it due place in the country's diverse ecosystem and also as a symbol of cultural diversity.

(d) & (e) Yes Sir. However, the details of the constitution of the National Elephant Conservation Authority (NECA) is yet to be finalized.