

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:360

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

DEATH OF ELEPHANTS IN TRAIN ACCIDENTS

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

- (a) the number of death of elephants reported in train accidents in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with Ministry of Railways and State Authorities;
- (c) if so, the reaction thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has prepared any Task Force to protect the designated key elephant corridors in various parts of the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the said Task Force has submitted their recommendations; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a) As reported by the State Governments , details of state-wise deaths of elephants in train accidents are as follows:

State Year-wise number of elephant deaths
 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11

Assam	2	2	8	2	
West Bengal		5	3	1	9
Tamil Nadu		1	3	1	0
Jharkhand		1	0	0	0
Kerala		1	0	3	0
Orissa		2	0	0	0

(b)& (c) Yes sir. Several actions have been planned and initiated jointly by the Railways and the State Forest Departments to prevent such accidental deaths which includes imposition of speed limit, clearing of vegetation on both sides of the track, construction of ramps / fences etc .

(d), (e) , (f) & (g) The Ministry had constituted a Task Force on Project Elephant to suggest measures for more effective conservation and management regime for the species, including the corridors, in the country. The Task Force has submitted its Report. The main recommendations of the Task Force are :

- (1) To form National Elephant Conservation Authority (NECA)
- (2) To increase the financial outlay of the project to Rs. 600 crore in the 12th Plan against Rs. 81.99 crore in the 11th Plan.
- (3) To constitute a Consortium of Elephant Research and Estimation (CERE) for designing a robust and scientific elephant monitoring programme
- (4) To declare Elephant as National Heritage Animal
- (5) To constitute Conflict Management Task Force in identified areas

- (6) Enhancement of ex-gratia payment to at least Rs 3 lakh in case death of human life by elephants against current minimum rate of Rs one lakh.
- (7) Notification of the identified corridors by respective State Governments.
- (8) Immediate filling of vacancies of the frontline staff with local youths.
- (9) Free ration /food allowance for frontline staff including daily watchers
- (10) Insurance cover to the front line staff involved in protection duties.
- (11) Setting up of Fast Track special courts to deal with wildlife crime.
- (12) Hosting of International Elephant Congress by India.
- (13) Establishing Asian Elephant Forum on the lines of the Global Tiger Forum.