

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:675

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012

TRAINS PASSING THROUGH FORESTS

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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of wild animals killed by the goods and passenger trains passing through reserve forests in various parts of the country during the last three years, zone-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to avoid these killings particularly during night times;
- (c) whether various forest department officials have requested for limiting the speed of goods trains;and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Railways in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA)

(a) Number of wild animals killed by the goods and passenger trains during the last three years, in five zonal railways, is as under:

Year	East Central Railway	East Coast Railway	Northeast Frontier Railway	North Eastern Railway	Southern Railway
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2009	NIL	NIL	5	1	4
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2010	NIL	NIL	19	NIL	1
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2011	1	1	7	NIL	NIL
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2012	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
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(Up to
February, 2012)

(b) To mitigate casualties of wild animals and of elephants in particular due to train hit, Ministry of Railways in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued a General Advisory to Zonal Railways on 30.3.2010. The advisory prescribes guidelines for Railways and Forest officials which will help in preventing such incidences. As a consequence of General Advisory, instructions have also been issued to sensitize Train Crew and Station Masters on a regular basis and for need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within railway land. Elephant Corridors have been identified by the Forest Department, where, Speed Restrictions have been imposed in night as well as during day time (as per the need) and signage boards provided, to pre-warn the train drivers. As per advice of Forest Department, Railway is also attempting to find a more lasting solution in the matter through proposal for deposit works consisting of measures such as ramps and underpasses etc. Railway is also holding regular meetings with the Forest Department of State Government of West Bengal to take remedial measures for controlling elephant casualties.

During a meeting conducted by the Ministry of Railways in July, 2011, attended by the Forest Department, it was decided that Forest Department will erect and man watch towers at vulnerable locations and a forest official will be posted at Railway Divisional Control at

Alipurwar, for co-ordination.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Speed Restrictions have been imposed at vulnerable locations identified by the Forest Department.