

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6150
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the population of elephants has been decreasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of elephants during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the population of elephants?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact, as per the census of elephant population, which are undertaken in the country at the interval of five years, the population of wild elephants in the country has been increasing since 1980. The details of elephant population, as estimated during the previous three census operations, are as follows:

Year of census	Estimated population of elephants
1997	25877
2002	26413
2007	27669

No nationwide census of elephant population has been undertaken during last three years.

(c) The Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments in elephant range states under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Elephant' for scientific management of elephant habitats including taking up measures for improvement of elephant habitat, undertaking measures for mitigating human-elephant conflict, strengthening machinery in forest areas for better protection of elephants, creating mass awareness about protection of elephants, and enforcement of the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 against poaching of elephants and illegal trade in captive elephants and ivory.