

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:217

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2009

TRAINS PASSING THROUGH RESERVE FORESTS

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Southern Railways plan to prune its train services and reduce speed to check increasing incidents of wild elephants being hit by trains passing through the reserve forest area in the Coimbatore-Palakkad section;
- (b) if so, the details of all such places where such measure is being introduced;
- (c) the number of elephants losing their lives due to speeding trains going through each of such Reserve forest areas;
- (d) whether the Railways are considering a policy to ban the trains passing through reserve forest land; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Southern Railway is not planning to prune its services. However, speed restriction is implemented as a temporary measure in Coimbatore-Palakkad section, falling under reserve forest area, to check incidents of wild elephants being hit by trains.

(b) The speed of trains is restricted to 45 KMPH in few identified stretches of Coimbatore-Palakkad section from 18:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs.

The temporary speed restriction of 30 KMPH has been imposed at 6 locations between Tikunia and Palian Kalan Station in North Eastern Railway where Dudhwa National Park is located.

The speed of trains is restricted to 50 KMPH at select locations between Stations Gulma-Sivok, Chalsa-Nagrakata, Madarihat-Hasimara, Hasimara-Hamiltonganj, Azra-Kamakhyia, Habaipur-Lamsakhang, Lamsakhang-Patharkhola, Daldali- Dhansiri, Tingrai-Digboi and Mariani-Meleng of Northeast Frontier Railway.

In Bhavnagar Division of Western Railway, the trains are running with a restricted speed of 30 KMPH in between the reserve forest area.

(c) 20 numbers of elephants have lost their lives due to train hit.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.