

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1746

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013

CASUALTIES OF ELEPHANTS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Panda Shri Prabodh;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several accidents on rail tracks occurred in elephant corridors during the recent past killing number of elephants due to high speed of trains;
- (b) the number of cases reported during the last six months, zone-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued advisory to ensure that trains slow down sufficiently in elephant corridors;
- (d) if so, the instructions issued by the Railways to all divisions in this regard;
- (e) whether the Railways have put up an elephant crossing signboards on the routes where elephants cross the tracks; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to implement the said instructions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KOTLA JAYA SURYA PRAKASH REDDY)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1746 BY SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL, SHRI PRABODH PANDA, SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR, SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV AND SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.03.2013 REGARDING CASUALTIES OF ELEPHANTS

(a) &(b) Zone-wise number of cases (accidents) reported on Railway Track killing elephants during the last six months till 28.02.2013 is as under:

East Coast Railway	Northern Railway	Northeast Frontier Railway	South Western Railway	TOTAL
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(c) to (e) : Advisory to Zonal Railways have been issued to sensitise Train Crew and Station Masters on a regular basis. A Permanent Co-ordination Committee has been formed at Zonal Railway level and at Ministry level (Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Environment and Forests) to monitor/review the steps taken on mitigation of such incidence. Ministry of Railways is holding regular meetings with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take remedial measures for controlling elephant casualties. Elephant corridors have been identified by the Forest Department, and on such corridors, speed restrictions have been imposed and signage boards provided to pre-warn the train drivers. Instructions have also been issued for need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within railway land.

In consultation with the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) and Forest Departments of the State Governments, Railways is also attempting to find a more lasting solution in the matter through deposit works consisting of measures such as construction of ramps and underpasses etc., the cost of which will be borne by the Forest Department.

(f): Does not arise.