

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:290

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013

PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS

Baske Shri Pulin Bihar;Singh Chaudhary Lal

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

- (a) whether the number of elephants is declining in the country over a period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of elephants in the country where 'Project Elephant' has been implemented, area-wise;
- (d) whether any efforts are being made to increase the elephant population in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 290 REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.03.2013.

(a) & (b) No Sir. The number of elephants is not declining in the country over a period of time. The details of estimated population of elephants in the country over a period of time are given below.

YEAR	1997	2002	2007
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Elephant Population	25842	26373	27669-27719
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(c) The number of elephants in the country where project elephant have been implemented, area-wise and state-wise is given in Annexure.

(d) & (e) Yes Sir. Efforts are made to protect and increase the elephant population in the country. The Central Government is releasing funds for protection and conservation of elephants in the country under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Elephant. The Elephant range states have taken various activities to mitigate Man-Elephant conflict, improvement of Elephant Habitat, restoration of Elephant Corridors and various awareness programmes under the scheme. Some of the activities are as follows:

- 1) Habitat improvements and restoration of Elephant Corridors in PE Range states under PE Scheme (CSS)
- 2) Infrastructure improvement in Elephant Reserves for effective management of elephant population.
- 3) Anti depredation squads, anti poaching squads and trekkers are engaged for protection of elephants.
- 4) To restrict menace of elephants to human habitations, solar fencing, trenches and stone waling are being provided in the depredation prone localities.
- 5) Studies on various issues such as man animal conflict, carrying capacity of elephant habitat are encouraged.
- 6) Awareness programme among the local villagers are taken to minimize the loss of life of the wild elephants.
- 7) For better management of Wild Elephants, 28 Elephant Reserves have been established by the states.
- 8) To secure the future of the elephants in India, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Elephant Task Force

which has submitted its report "Gajah" to the Ministry in 2010.

9) To monitor and review the CSS scheme of PE, a steering committee has been constituted by the Ministry.

10) As per one of the decisions in the 6th meeting of NBWL, a committee for strengthening of Elephant Reserves and elephant corridors has been constituted in January, 2013.

11) As per one of the Elephant Task Force recommendations, creation of National Elephant Conservation Authority (NECA) is under process.

12) Joint advisories have been issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and Ministry of Railways (MoRs) to all the concerned states to avoid deaths of elephants by speeding trains.