

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3252

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

DECLINING POPULATION OF ELEPHANTS

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Panda Shri Baijayant;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether India has around 60% population of Asian elephants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the number of Asian elephants has declined in the country especially in North Eastern States over the years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether a large number of elephants have reportedly killed in various parts of the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action plan of the Government to protect and conserve these elephants?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per the latest estimation India has about 27,694 wild elephants in the country against estimated total population of approximately between 30,000-55,000 in all the Range countries having Asian Elephants.

(c) & (d) The population estimates of the wild elephants in the country is done on 5-year interval. The population trend for the last four census for the entire country and North -Eastern States are as follows?

Year      No of Elephants

	For the entire country	For North-Eastern States
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1993	25,604	10,841
1997	25,877	9,232
2002	26,413	8,951
2007-08	27,694	9,005

While the country population is showing an increasing trend, the trend for North-Eastern States is more or less stable.

(e) & (f) As reported by the State Governments, the number of elephants killed in the last three years due to various reasons, other than natural deaths, are as follows:

Year	Train Accident	Poisoning	Electrocution	Poaching
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2007-08	12	06	48	11
2008-09	08	10	43	13

(g) The Central Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme named 'Project Elephant' in the year 1992 with the objective to protect and conserve elephants, their habitats and corridors. This Scheme is being implemented in 15 Elephant Range States. Under the Scheme, the State Governments are provided financial assistance for protection and conservation of elephants.