

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2159

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

LEGAL PROTECTION TO ELEPHANT RESERVES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Owaisi Shri Asaduddin; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has constituted a committee to review as to how elephant reserves and corridors can get a higher level of legal protection under existing green laws;
- (b) if so, the terms of reference of the committee along with the time by which the aforesaid committee is likely to submit its report to the Government; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to regulate activities detrimental to the Pachyderm while not hurting rights of people living in these zones?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the committee along with the terms of reference are at Annexure.
- (c) The Government has taken following steps to regulate activities detrimental to this pachyderm.
 - a. Project Elephant provides assistance to the states for improvement of the habitats, acquisition of private lands in identified corridors and payment of ex-gratia assistance for damage to life and property by the wild elephants.
 - b. Creation of Elephant Task Force.
 - c. A separate committee has been constituted to strengthen the Elephant Reserves and Elephant Corridors.
 - d. Regulations in existence under Environmental Protection Act 1986, Forest Conservation Act 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 are in force, and are invoked in case of habitats of elephants also, as applicable.