

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:11
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013
ELEPHANTS KILLED ON RAIL TRACKS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Roy Shri Mahendra Kumar

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of elephants killed on the railway tracks during the last three years and the current year in the country, zone-wise;
- (b) whether the Railways have conducted any inquiry in the matter;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to check recurrence of such incidents on the Railway tracks in the country in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 11 BY SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY AND SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.12.2013 REGARDING ELEPHANTS KILLED ON RAIL TRACKS.

(a) The number of elephants killed on railway tracks during the last three years and the current year in the country, zone wise are as under :

Year	East	East	Northern	Northeast	Southern	South	South	Total
	Central	Coast	Railway	Frontier	Railway	Eastern	Western	
	Railway	Railway	Railway	Railway	Railway			
2010	NIL	NIL	NIL	19	1	NIL	20	
2011	1	1	NIL	7	NIL	NIL	9	
2012	NIL	6	NIL	6	NIL	3	15	
2013	NIL	NIL	2	16	NIL	1	2	21
(up to								
28.11.								
13)								
Total	1	7	2	48	1	4	2	65

(b) Yes, Madam. In most of the cases, Zonal Railways have conducted inquiry in the matter. However, in few cases, where elephants were killed on non identified Elephant corridors/ locations, and where no prior information was available with Railways from Forest Department, inquiries have not been conducted.

(c) The details of inquiries are hereunder:

Year	No. of incidents	No. of inquiries ordered	No. of inquiries completed
2010	10	6	6
2011	7	5	5
2012	8	1	1
2013 (upto	10	7	6
28.11.13)			

(d) Following steps have been taken to check recurrence of such incidences on Railway Track resulting in deaths of elephants:

(i) Ministry of Railways is holding regular meetings with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take remedial measures for controlling elephant casualties.

(ii) Elephant corridors have been identified by the Forest Department, and on such corridors speed restrictions have been imposed.

- (iii) Signage boards have been provided to pre-warn the train drivers.
- (iv) Advisory to Zonal Railways have also been issued to sensitise Train Crew and Station Masters on a regular basis.
- (v) Instructions have also been issued for need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within railway land.
- (vi) Construction of underpasses for the movement of elephants at identified locations in consultation with the Forest Department of State Govt. & MoEF.
- (vii) Construction of ramps in Jaldapara wild life sanctuary.
- (viii) Construction of girder bridges to check the entry of elephants into deep cuttings.
- (ix) Provision of fencing at isolated locations where visibility is impaired due to curvature.
- (x) Provision of solar lights at vulnerable locations to deter elephants from crossing railway tracks.
- (xi) VHF (Walkie-Talkie) communication has been established between Railway and Forest officials for faster flow of information of elephant sighting so that necessary action can be taken to alert the loco pilots.