

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4543
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015
ELEPHANT MORTALITY
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.;Nayak Shri B.V.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of elephant mortality and accidental deaths of wild animals reported from various parts of the country particularly at railway tracks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with the railway authorities and also with the State Governments to protect the elephants and other wild animals; and;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKESH JAVADEKAR):

- (a) & (b) Yes Sir. The details of elephant deaths due to train hits, state-wise, as reported by the States, for the current and the last three years are at Annexue I.
- (c) The Government has taken the following measures in consultation with Ministry of Railways to prevent accidental deaths of elephants:
 - (i) A general advisory was issued jointly to all the railway zones and relevant states suggesting measures to prevent collision of trains with wild elephants. These are as following:
 - (a) Clearance of Vegetation on the sides of Railway tracks.
 - (b) Underpasses/overpasses across the Railway track to allow elephants to escape.
 - (c) Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers.
 - (d) Sensitization programmes for Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters.
 - (e) Engagement of Elephant trackers by MoEF and communication with Station Masters.
 - (f) To keep Railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants.
 - (ii) A permanent coordination committee has been constituted jointly by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests to share information and monitor the implementation of the advisory.
 - (iii) Ministry of Railways has also been requested to regulate the speed of trains in identified vulnerable sections.
 - (iv) Nodal officers have been designated in State Forest Departments and Railways in the vulnerable sections to facilitate quick sharing of information.
- (d) The coordination between local railway authorities and forest authorities has been effective. In 2014-15 number of casualties of wild elephants due to train accident has been 2.