

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6364
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
DECREASING ELEPHANT POPULATION
Bohara Shri Ramcharan

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

- (a) whether the population of elephant is declining over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of elephants in the country where project elephant is being implemented, location and State -wise;
- (d) the efforts being made to increase the number of elephants in the country; and
- (e) the achievements as a result of the said measures ?

Answer

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

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

YEAR	2002	2007	2012
Elephant Population	26373	27669-27719	29391-30711

(c) The number of elephants in the country, where project elephant is being implemented, State- wise is given in Annexure.

(d) & (e) Yes Sir, Efforts are being made to conserve and increase elephant population in the Country.

1. The Central Government is providing technical and financial assistance to elephant range States for conservation and welfare of elephants in the country under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ` Project Elephant ` . Major components of the scheme are:

- (i) to mitigate Human- Elephant Conflict,
- (ii) improvement of elephant habitats,
- (iii) restoration of elephant corridors,
- (iv) protection of elephants,
- (v) welfare of captive elephants, and
- (vi) to organize awareness programmes

2. The elephant range States notify the elephant habitats as "Elephant Reserves" for better management of wild elephants. So far 29 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 States.

3. Elephant is included under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for providing it highest degree of legal protection.