

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:146
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
ELEPHANT RESERVE
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

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

- (a) whether the Government has granted approval to establish an Elephant Reserve in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with funds sanctioned and released for the purpose;
- (c) the time by which the said Project is likely to get completed; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to protect and conserve elephants while mitigating man-elephant conflicts?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Government of India has given approval for establishment of the following two elephant reserves in Chhattisgarh viz. Lemru in Korbat and Badalkhol-Tamparingla in Jashpur and Sarguja, of which the latter has been notified by the State Government in September, 2011. Financial assistance of Rs. 4.8 crore and Rs. 1.09 crore, have been released to State, for conservation of the elephant population and habitats, during XI Plan and the last two years, respectively. Presently, centrally sponsored Scheme Project Elephant is approved for its continuation till the end of XII plan.

(d) Various measures and steps have been taken by the Government for protecting and conserving elephants including its inclusion in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. 14 elephant range States have notified 28 Elephant Reserves covering an area of more than 60,000 sq km for conservation and management of wild elephants. The Central Government provides financial assistance to the states for protection and conservation of elephants in the country under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Elephant'. Various activities are planned and taken up under the scheme to mitigate Man-Elephant conflict, improvement of Elephant Habitats, restoration of Elephant Corridors and various awareness programmes. Some of the activities are as follows:

- i. Habitat improvements and restoration of Elephant Corridors in PE Range states under PE Scheme (CSS)
- ii. Infrastructure improvement in Elephant Reserves for effective management of elephant population.
- iii. Anti depredation squads, anti poaching squads and trekkers are engaged for protection of elephants.
- iv. To restrict menace of elephants to human habitations, solar fencing, trenches and stone walling are being provided in the depredation prone localities.
- v. Studies on various issues such as man animal conflict, carrying capacity of elephant habitat are encouraged.
- vi. Awareness programme among the local villagers are taken to minimize the loss of life of the wild elephants.