

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3936

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014

POACHING OF ELEPHANTS

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

- (a) whether unnatural deaths including killing of elephants have been reported from various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard and steps taken for protection of elephants; and
- (d) the funds released for protection of elephants and restoration of elephant corridors separately, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The details of elephant deaths due to train hits, electrocution, poaching and poisoning, state-wise, as per the available records in the Ministry, for the last three years are at Annexure I.

(c) Important action taken by the Government for protection of Elephant are as below:

(i) Joint advisories have been issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and Ministry of Railways (MoRs) to all the concerned states to take precautionary measures to avoid deaths of elephants by speeding trains. These are as following:

1. Clearance of Vegetation on the sides of Railway tracks.
2. Underpasses/overpasses across the Railway track to allow elephants to escape.
3. Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers.
4. Sensitising programmes for Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters.
5. Engagement of Elephant trackers by Ministry of Environment and Forests and communication with Station Masters.
6. To keep Railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants.

(ii) A committee for strengthening of Elephant Reserves and Elephant Corridors has been constituted in January, 2013 as per one of the decisions in the 6th meeting of National Board of Wildlife.

(iii) The Central Government has been providing financial assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant" since 1992, for following activities:

1. Protection of Elephant with establishment of anti-poaching camps, reward to informers and expenses on intelligence gathering etc.
2. Protection of Elephant Habitat and Corridors.
3. Eliciting Public Support Services including Eco-development.
4. Improvement of support Services (including monitoring, training and research).
5. Captive Elephant management and welfare.

(iv) A Steering Committee has been constituted by the Ministry to monitor and review the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Elephant.

(v) A network of 28 Elephant Reserves has been established by the States for better management of wild elephants.

(vi) Elephant is included under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for priority protection and management.

(d) Details of State-wise release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant" during the last three years are at Annexure II.