

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3312**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.07.2019

**Elephant Census**

3312. SHRIMATI PRATIMA BHOMIK:

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

- (a) the total elephant population as per the last synchronized elephant census undertaken in the country;
- (b) whether there is any increase or decline in the elephant population in comparison to the previous census, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the State-wise elephant population enumerated in all the seven North-Eastern States during this census;
- (d) whether the elephant population has been found commensurate with adequate sightings/enlistments of infant & sub-adult population during the census operations and if so, the details thereof and the expenditure involved in undertaking synchronized population census;
- (e) the number of casualties reported in straying of elephants in seven North-Eastern States during the last five years along with the steps/actions taken in mitigating the casualties due to straying of the elephants; and
- (f) whether there is any risk of in-breeding of Indian elephants in the North- Eastern States and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve the said issues?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

- (a) The total elephant population in the country as per the last synchronized elephant estimation conducted in 2017 is 29964. The figures is based on the analysis of data collected by the “Direct Count Method”, using 30-50% sampling, in most major elephant stats of the country. Figures for Tripura, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobars Islands and Kerala are based on the “Indirect Dung Count Method”.
- (b) The elephant census figures reported during the previous enumeration in the year 2012 was in the range of 29391-30711. The present figure of 29964 in the year 2017 falls within this range indicating a relatively stable population over the past five years.

- (c) The state-wise elephant population enumerated in all the seven North-Eastern states during 2017 is given below:

REGION	STATE	ELEPHANT POPULATION 2017
North-East	Arunachal Pradesh	1614
	Assam	5719
	Meghalaya	1754
	Nagaland	446
	Mizoram	7
	Manipur	9
	Tripura	102
<b>Total for North-Eastern Region</b>		<b>9651</b>

- (d) Yes sir. The elephant populations have been found to have a healthy reproductive rate as seen from the percentage of infants and sub-adults. The expenditure involved in undertaking All India Synchronized Elephant Population 2017 is Rs 300.86 Lakhs.
- (e) Details of casualties reported due to straying of elephants in seven North Eastern State, during the last five years, is given in **Annexure**. The steps/action taken under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Elephant' to mitigate the casualties due to straying of the elephants are:
- i. Financial and technical assistance is provided to elephant range states under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant', to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of man-elephant conflict and welfare of captive elephants.
  - ii. Notification of the critical elephant habitats as "Elephant Reserves" for better management of wild elephants.
  - iii. Construction/erecting of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary wall etc. to prevent entry of wild animals into crop field.
  - iv. All the elephant state has been directed to implement the Guidelines for Management of Human Elephant Conflict issued by the Ministry on 6.10.2017.
  - v. Works like creation of water sources, plantation of fruiting trees, pasture development, fire protection etc. are being done to enrich elephant habitat so that elephants can be retained in their habitat.
  - vi. Regular and extensive patrolling of elephant areas by frontline field staff of the State Forest Departments is done so that elephants can be retained in their habitat.
  - vii. To reduce man-elephant conflict and to avoid retaliatory killing of elephants, compensation is provided to local communities for loss of their property and life caused by wild elephants.
  - viii. Forest Department is engaging local communities as animal trackers to know the movement of elephants and also to caution local people to avoid man-animal conflict and to prevent the elephant to their natural habitat.
  - ix. Wildlife Institute of India in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank Group has published a document namely 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' to assist the project agencies of linear infrastructure in designing the linear infrastructure in a manner which will reduce human-animal conflicts in the areas where these linear infrastructures are passing through Protected Areas and other wildlife areas.
- (f) No sir, there is no risk at present of inbreeding of elephants across the North Eastern region.

**ANNEXURE**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3312 RAISED BY SHRIMATI PRATIMA BHOMIK  
REGARDING 'ELEPHANT CENSUS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 12.07.2019.**

**Number of Casualties Reported in Straying of Elephant in Seven North-Eastern States  
during last five years from 2014-15 to 2018-2019**

STATE	Year wise Elephant Death					Year wise Human Death				
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	NR	NR	0
Assam	20	18	27	44	19	54	31	91	72	84
Meghalaya	4	1	2	3	1	5	6	5	7	3
Nagaland	0	4	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	1
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0

\* NR- Information not received from State.