

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 489
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022**

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY TRACKS

**†*489. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the deaths of humans and animals, particularly elephants on railway tracks that is steadily increasing across the country;**
- (b) if so, the details of such deaths that occurred during the last three years and the current year, human/animal-wise figure in each State;**
- (c) whether the Railways has conducted any probe in this matter;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to check the recurrence of such incidents on railway tracks in the country in future?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 489 BY SHRI RAMDAS C.TADAS AND SHRI NATARAJAN P.R. TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.04.2022 REGARDING ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY TRACKS

(a) and (b): Based on the data published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) available upto the year 2020, there is considerable decrease in number of persons died on railways in untoward incidents and other eventualities like trespass, suicide, electrocution etc. during the year 2020 as compared to the previous year 2019. However, a marginal increase is noticed in the year 2019 as compared to the previous year i.e. 2018. Figures for the number of persons died in untoward incidents and other incidents like trespass, suicide, electrocution etc. for the year 2021 on railways have not been published by NCRB.

The Zone-wise details of number of wild animals including elephants killed on railway tracks in the country during the last three years i.e. 2019, 2020, 2021 and current year i.e. 2022 (upto February) are appended.

(c) to (f): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintaining law and order etc. on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. The State Police registers cases under Section 174 of Cr.PC in cases of unnatural deaths including unnatural deaths on railways, conducts investigation and takes further action as per law.

Besides, the following corrective measures are also being taken by the Railways to prevent human deaths in untoward incidents on Railway track:-

- i. Railways have constituted interdepartmental 'Joint Committee' comprising officers of Safety, Security, Signal & Engineering departments across all Zonal Railways to study the causes and suggest specific measures to minimise deaths due to untoward incidents including trespassing by humans. Accordingly, preventive and corrective measures are taken to improve and create infrastructure to minimise casualties.**
- ii. Regular announcements are made through Passenger Address System at Railway stations urging passengers to use foot over bridges (FOBs) and to avoid crossing of railway tracks.**
- iii. Various awareness campaigns are organized by Railways to sensitize passengers about the fatalities of crossing railway tracks, foot-board/roof-top travelling, boarding/de-boarding running trains etc.**
- iv. Regular drives are conducted against trespassing, travelling on foot-board, steps, roof top of trains, boarding/de-boarding running trains and the persons apprehended are prosecuted under the relevant provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.**
- v. Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed on locations vulnerable for trespassing.**
- vi. Erection of boundary wall/fencing at identified locations, vulnerable to trespass.**
- vii. Warning sign boards are provided at conspicuous places for the awareness of passengers.**
- viii. Unauthorized trespassing on Railway premises including the Railway track is a punishable offence under section 147 of the Railways Act, 1989. During the previous year i.e. 2021, total 82628 persons were prosecuted and convicted for trespassing.**

In cases of killing of elephants/animals on railway tracks, Zonal Railways investigate the incidences and conduct inquiry wherever necessary. Based on the findings in investigation/enquiry, preventive measures are taken by Zonal Railways in coordination with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. A Permanent Co-ordination Committee has been constituted between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for preventing elephant death in train accidents. A number of preventive measures are taken by Zonal Railways in coordination with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to prevent accidental death of animals due to train hits. The preventive measures undertaken include the following:-

- i. Imposition of speed restrictions in identified vulnerable locations.**
- ii. Provision of signage boards at suitable points to alert train drivers about elephant presence.**
- iii. Sensitization of Train crew and Station Masters on a regular basis.**
- iv. Clearing of vegetation along railway tracks to allow unhindered and clear view for train drivers.**
- v. Construction of underpasses and ramps for the movement of elephants at identified locations.**
- vi. Provision of fencing at isolated locations.**
- vii. Avoid dumping of food waste along railway track to avoid unnecessary congregation of elephants and other wild animals near railway track.**
- viii. Installation of innovative Honey bee sound systems at locations, which are prone to crossing of elephants.**
- ix. Forest Department staff deputed in Railway control offices to liaison with Railway and elephant trackers engaged by Forest Department for timely action by alerting station master and loco pilots.**
- x. Counselling of villagers for avoiding cattle coming near track during safety propagandas in villages.**

APPENDIX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 489 BY SHRI RAMDAS C.TADAS AND SHRI NATARAJAN P.R. TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.04.2022 REGARDING ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY TRACKS

(a) and (b): The Zone-wise details of number of elephants and other wild animals killed on railway tracks during the last three years i.e. 2019, 2020, 2021 and current year i.e. 2022 (upto February) are as under:-

Railway	Number of elephants deaths and other wild animals (excluding elephants) on railways tracks during the years 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 (upto February)							
	2019		2020		2021		2022 (upto February)	
	Elephants	Other wild animals	Elephants	Other wild animals	Elephants	Other wild animals	Elephants	Other wild animals
Central	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
East Central	0	19	0	25	0	38	0	14
East Coast	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
Northern	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
North Eastern	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Northeast Frontier	4	0	6	0	5	1	2	0
Southern	2	0	3	0	4	0	0	0
South Central	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	1
South Eastern	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
South East Central	0	18	0	7	0	25	0	22
South Western	0	4	0	0	1	1	0	0
West Central	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0
Western	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Total	10	44	16	38	19	69	3	37
