

Statement-III*Elephant death due to poisoning*

State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	0
Karnataka	0	0	0
Kerala	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0
Tripura	0	0	0
West Bengal	1	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	1
Uttarakhand	0	0	0
TOTAL	01	00	01

Wild animals killed by speedy trains

778. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY:

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY:

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

(a) the number of Elephants and other wild animals run over by speeding trains between North Bengal and North-East from 2010 till date;

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to prevent such accidental deaths of wild animals;

(c) whether Government is contemplating change of railway routes from the natural corridors of wild elephants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) 20 Elephants have died due to train hits between North Bengal and North-East/Assam border from 2010 till date. The number of other wild animals run over by trains in this region is not collated in the Ministry.

(b) The Government has taken following measures to prevent accidental deaths of wild animals, especially elephants:

- (i) Ministry of Railways in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests had issued a general advisory to all the railway zones suggesting measures to prevent collision of trains with wild elephants. A permanent coordination team has been constituted jointly by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests to share information and monitor the implementation of the advisory on quarterly basis.
- (ii) Ministry of Railways has also been requested to regulate the speed of trains in vulnerable sections.
- (iii) Nodal officers have been designated in the vulnerable sections to facilitate quick sharing of information.
- (iv) The Ministry of Environment and Forests sanctioned an amount of Rs 2.42 crores and released Rs 1.93 crores to the Government of West Bengal during FY 2010-11 for creation of fences and ramps at several places within Mahananda and Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- (v) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been releasing financial assistance to the State Government of West Bengal under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Elephant' for construction of RCC watch towers, provision of heavy duty solar lights, high beam search lights, engagement of personnel to man watch towers, and clearing of bushes on the sides of railway tracks for improving visibility to monitor the movement of elephants near the railway tracks with the objective of preventing collision of elephants with trains.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has requested the Ministry of Railways to strengthen the alternative railway track from New Jalpaiguri to North-Eastern Region via Falakata so that heavy movement of trains on the Siliguri-Alipurduar route may be avoided, especially during the nights.

Death due to air pollution in the country

†779. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.