

Human Wildlife Conflict – Information highlighted in all Sessions, 2014-2015

RELOCATION OF WILD ANIMALS

16th December, 2014

LSQ *328 .

Tanwar Shri Kanwar Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of nuisance caused by various wild and domestic animals including monkeys venturing/sneaking into human habitations, offices, residential areas and railway tracks etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of schemes undertaken for relocation of such animals in their natural habitations?

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

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 328 REGARDING “RELOCATION OF WILD ANIMALS” BY SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR DUE FOR REPLY ON 16.12.2014

(a) to (c) The central government is aware of the conflict between humans and wild animals. The wild animals most commonly found to be having conflict with human are as below:

1. Monkeys, listed in Sch II of the Wildlife Protection Act
2. Blue Bulls, listed in Sch III of the Wildlife Protection Act
3. Elephants, listed in Sch I of the Wildlife Protection Act
4. Wild Boar, listed in Sch III of the Wildlife Protection Act

The major causes of conflict are the depredation of crops which is caused mostly by the blue Bulls, elephants and wild boars, and other property like huts and kutcha houses, which is mostly by elephants and also the nuisance caused by the monkeys in habitations as well as damage to crops by them. The monkeys found

to be causing nuisance in human dominated areas are commensal and the management of these animals essentially lies with the local bodies like municipal corporations. In some areas including Delhi, relocations of monkeys have been attempted. However, the success has been mixed.

In some areas, the attack by bears on people is also a serious cause of concern. In addition, cattle lifting by some carnivores also cause some occasional conflicts.

The degradation of the habitat, resource use in the wildlife habitat by the human beings for various reasons like grazing, fuel-wood, grass removal and exploitation of wild fruits etc. and increase in population of wild animals due to sustained protection efforts are some of the reasons leading to human wildlife conflict.

The government has also taken note of the increasing population of stray dogs in the country and has notified the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001. The animal birth control in respect of dogs is being implemented by local bodies themselves or through animal welfare organizations and private individuals with or without seeking grants from the Animal Welfare Board of India under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Scheme for Birth Control and Immunisation of Stray Dogs".

PROTECTION FROM WILD ANIMALS

16th December, 2014

LSQ 3795

Usendi Shri Vikram
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)
Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar
Jaunpuria Shri Sukhbir Singh

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

- (a) whether incidents of wild animals straying into human habitation and causing damage to crops and loss of life and property have been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;
- (c) the compensation paid on account of loss of life and damage to crops/ property during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to set up barbed wire fencing/solar fencing around agricultural field and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to protect the lives of the villagers residing in and around forest areas particularly Tiger reserves in the country?

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

(a) and (b) Reports about incidents of wild animals straying into human habitation and causing damage to crops and human lives in various parts of the country are received in the Ministry from time to time. However, the State-wise and year-wise details of such incidents are not collated in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Management of wildlife and its habitats is the mandate of the concerned State /Union Territory Governments. The Central Government provides financial assistance to the States/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of `Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats`, `Project Tiger` and `Project Elephant` to, inter alia, make payment of ex-gratia relief in respect of damage to crops and loss of human lives suffered by the victims of depredations/attacks by wild animals.

Several activities including construction/erection of physical barriers like barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields are also supported under these schemes.

Details of funds released to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of `Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats`, `Project Tiger` and `Project Elephant` for taking up activities as per the scheme guidelines including payment of ex-gratia amounts and provisioning of fencing during the last three years and the current year are given in the Annexure.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Government to protect the lives of the villagers residing in and around forest areas including Tiger reserves in the country:

1. Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of “Integrated Development of Wildlife habitats”, “Project Tiger” and “Project Elephant” to undertake measures for improvement of wildlife habitats and to augment availability of food and water in forest areas to reduce migration of animals from the forests to human habitations.
2. Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for construction of physical barriers such as boundary walls and solar fences around the sensitive areas to prevent wild animal attacks.
3. Awareness programmes are launched by the Government to sensitize the people about the Do`s and Dont`s in case of wild animals scare and attacks.
4. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued guidelines to State/Union Territory Governments for management of Human-Leopard conflicts.
5. Training programmes are conducted for forest staff and police to address the problems of human-wildlife conflicts.
6. Necessary infrastructure and support facilities are developed for immobilization of problematic animals through tranquilization, their translocation to the rescue centers or release back to the natural habitats.
7. Ex-gratia relief is paid to the people for injuries suffered and loss of life caused due to attack by wild animals.
9. The Chief Wildlife Warden of the State/Union Territories are empowered to permit hunting of problematic animals under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

10. Eco-development activities in villages around Protected Areas are carried out to address the grievances of people regarding human -wildlife conflicts, and also to elicit their cooperation in management of the Protected Areas.

11. Research and academic institutions and leading voluntary organizations having expertise in managing human -wildlife conflict situations are involved in ascertaining the causes of conflict and their possible remedies.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c)AND(d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3795 REGARDING “PROTECTION FROM WILD ANIMALS ” BY SHRI VIKRAM USENDI, SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI, SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL AND SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA FOR REPLY ON 16.12.2014

Funds Released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-“Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats”

(RS IN LAKHS)

	State/UT	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (as on 11.12.2014)
1	A& N Islands	127.06	109.50	150.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	71.50	180.34	0.00	63.31
3	Arunachal Pradesh	168.11	162.38	220.44	0.00
4	Assam	234.17	146.00	138.88	149.11
5	Bihar	0.00	64.69	34.87	85.25
6	Chandigarh	19.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Chhattisgarh	241.78	449.57	408.74	482.12
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Goa	21.46	148.12	0.00	0.00
11	Gujarat	1126.59	517.93	537.84	634.94
12	Haryana	28.70	52.00	0.00	14.71
13	Himachal Pradesh	242.11	318.97	475.85	430.35
14	Jammu & Kashmir	445.09	515.96	485.75	506.76
15	Jharkhand	64.26	81.62	97.77	101.00
16	Karnataka	335.85	434.50	351.00	483.78
17	Kerala	941.79	1210.08	505.78	818.49
18	Madhya Pradesh	506.16	467.71	454.35	371.35

19	Maharashtra	322.39	425.88	470.77	402.72
20	Manipur	86.65	73.93	80.80	129.19
21	Meghalaya	43.80	22.08	25.56	44.87
22	Mizoram	153.45	96.39	210.33	105.05
23	Nagaland	30.33	25.86	15.38	85.16
24	Odisha	331.27	368.21	341.74	350.32
25	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Rajasthan	291.39	478.25	430.88	367.30
27	Sikkim	131.79	177.58	129.28	169.16
28	Tamil Nadu	256.03	258.48	277.79	280.63
29	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Uttar Pradesh	204.37	319.09	323.53	224.90
31	Uttarakhand	201.14	220.27	326.28	141.12
32	West Bengal	246.43	164.14	184.37	0.00
	TOTAL	6873.64	7489.53	6678.00	6441.57

Details of Funds Released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme

“Project Elephant”

(RS IN LAKHS)

Funds Released under the Scheme "Project Tiger"

S.No	STATES	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (as on 21.11.2014)
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	11.28	0.00	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	55.00	0.00	83.48	0.00
3	Assam	200.00	250.00	173.00	236.66
4	Chhatisgarh	145.57	60.29	49.62	43.75
5	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Jharkhand	105.87	59.51	65.66	88.43
7	Karnataka	261.83	240.30	325.41	169.18
8	Kerala	282.55	294.89	195.01	236.72
9	Maharashtra	20.29	20.47	18.68	8.00
10	Meghalaya	128.52	106.88	101.00	95.07
11	Nagaland	25.00	18.75	17.40	14.22
12	Orissa	214.60	210.00	206.00	119.33
13	Tamilnadu	228.49	250.31	211.00	200.01
14	Tripura	6.00	5.77	9.77	3.91
15	U.P.	49.30	14.76	0.00	5.16
16	Uttarakhand	141.99	161.46	115.07	103.91
17	W. Bengal	224.50	91.87	97.63	81.15
	Total	2089.51	1796.53	1668.72	1405.50

Centrally Sponsored

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No	Name of Tiger Range State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (as on 21.11.2014)
1	Andhra Pradesh	154.41	404.89	211.78	184.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	236.79	420.09	757.17	527.02
3	Assam	947.51	373.89	808.97	381.17
4	Bihar	172.19	311.06	285.09	296.56
5	Chhattisgarh	702.73	532.46	583.06	575.98
6	Karnataka	1830.65	933.53	2016.03	1187.18
7	Kerala	429.77	514.84	489.30	499.18
8	Jharkhand	156.35	107.44	251.17	84.04
9	Madhya Pradesh	5352.71	5772.36	4815.73	3703.86
10	Maharashtra	3622.34	848.41	3453.35	2824.48
11	Mizoram	225.29	468.31	233.68	77.89
12	Orissa	555.08	163.76	786.90	707.39
13	Rajasthan	67.21	4090.57	512.85	418.32
14	Tamil Nadu	605.96	445.98	763.26	864.32
15	Uttarakhand	399.76	160.69	384.05	365.38

16	Uttar Pradesh	446.13	334.06	525.88	451.81
17	West Bengal	157.66	404.92	348.52	456.54
19.	Goa	0.00	0.00	2.05	0.00
	Total	16062.52	16287.25	17228.81	13605.25

PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS

23rd July, 2014

LSQ 1937

Giluwa Shri Laxman
Gaddigoudar Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda
Singh Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) whether incidents of elephant deaths due to accidents on railway tracks after being hit by moving trains in various National Parks and forests have been reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has any projects/programmes for the restoration of elephant corridors in the country and if so, the details thereof including the critical corridors indentified in the country; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to protect wild elephants and their habitats in the country?

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

- (a) & (b) The details of elephant deaths due to train hits, state-wise, as reported by the States, for the current and the last three years are at Annexue I.
- (c) The Government has taken the following measures in consultation with Ministry of Railways to prevent accidental deaths of elephants:
 - (i) A general advisory was issued jointly to all the railway zones suggesting measures to prevent collision of trains with wild elephants. These are as following:
 - (a) Clearance of Vegetation on the sides of Railway tracks.

- (b) Underpasses/overpasses across the Railway track to allow elephants to escape.
 - (c) Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers.
 - (d) Sensitization programmes for Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters.
 - (e) Engagement of Elephant trackers by MoEF and communication with Station Masters.
 - (f) To keep Railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants.
- (ii) A permanent coordination committee 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.
- (iii) Ministry of Railways has also been requested to regulate the speed of trains in identified vulnerable sections.
- (iv) Nodal officers have been designated in State Forest Departments and Railways in the vulnerable sections to facilitate quick sharing of information.
- (d) Under the Centrally-sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant" (CSS-PE) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests financial assistance is provided to the states, for inter alia the following activities in elephant habitats and corridors:-
- (i) Improvement of habitats / corridors by enrichment plantation/eco restoration
 - (ii) Removal of invasive species
 - (iii) Creation of water bodies/ salt licks
 - (iv) Fire protection measures
 - (v) Eco-restoration of corridors/migration routes and paths including acquisition and relocation
 - (vi) Soil and water conservation measures 138, 28 and 17 State, inter-State and international elephant corridors have been identified, respectively. The State-wise details in this regard are at Annexure II. Out the above corridors 88 have been identified as priority ones.
- (e) Elephant is included under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The Central Government is providing financial assistance to States under the Centrally-sponsored Scheme Project Elephant since 1992, for protection and management of elephants and its habitat. The Elephant range States have taken various activities to mitigate Man-Elephant conflict, improvement of Elephant Habitat, restoration of Elephant Corridors and various awareness programmes under the scheme. Some of the activities are as follows:
- (i) For better management of wild Elephants and their habitats, 28 Elephant Reserves have been established by the States

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

ANNEXURE I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1937 REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.07.2014.

ELEPHANT CASUALTIES IN TRAIN ACCIDENTS

State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Assam	7	0	0	
West Bengal	3	4	9	2
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	
Jharkhand	1	0	1	
Kerala	0	0	1	
Odisha	2	10	1	
Tripura	0	0	0	
Uttarakhand	0	2	0	
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	
Total	13	16	13	2

ANNEXURE II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1937 REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.07.2014.

List of identified elephant corridors

State Corridor		Inter-State Corridor		International Corridor	
State	Number	States	Number	Countries	Number
Meghalaya	26	Jharkhand– Odisha	8	Indo-Bangladesh	6
Odisha	21	Arunachal– Assam	4	Indo- Bhutan	4
Tamilnadu	19	Karnataka– Tamilnadu	4	Indo- Myanmar	4
Assam	15	Assam– Nagaland	3	Indo – Nepal	3
West Bengal	14	Jharkhand – West Bengal	3		
Kerala	12	Arunachal– Nagaland	2		
Karnataka	9	Jharkhand– M.P.	1		
Arunachal Pradesh	8	Odisha–W. Bengal	1		
Jharkhand	6	Karnataka– Kerala	1		
Uttarakhand	5	Kerala-Tamilnadu	1		
Uttar Pradesh	3				
Total	138	Total	28	Total	17

DEATHS OF WILD ANIMALS

23rd July, 2014

LSQ 1961

Dubey Shri Nishikant
Puttaraju Shri C.S.
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- whether cases of deaths of wild animals including tiger, leopards and elephants in protected areas and sanctuaries have been on the rise during the last three years and the current year;
- if so, the details thereof, year-wise and sanctuary-wise including Sundarban in West Bengal;

(c) the reasons identified for their untimely and unnatural deaths, sanctuary-wise; and;

(d) the action taken by Government to ensure their safety?

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

(a) to (c) The year-wise and State-wise details related to the death of wild animals, including tiger, leopard and elephants in National Parks and Sanctuaries are not compiled in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. However, the protection of Tiger Reserves is directly coordinated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the details of Tiger Reserve-wise tiger deaths during the last three years and the current year, as reported by the NTCA are at Annexure. The reasons for the death of wild animals include in-fighting between animals, old age, accidents, retaliatory actions arising out of human wildlife conflict, like poisoning, electrocution, and illegal hunting.

(d) Important steps taken by the Government to ensure safety of wildlife are as follows:

i. Hunting and commercial exploitation of wild animals included in various schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is prohibited. Offences committed in respect of these species attract punishment prescribed under the Act.

ii. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

iii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

iv. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of `Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats`, `Project Tiger` and `Project Elephant` for providing better protection to wildlife and improvement of its habitat.

v. The State/Union Territory Government have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) AND (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1961 REGARDING "DEATH OF WILD ANIMALS" BY SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY, SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU AND SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY DUE FOR REPLY ON 23-07-2014.

Details of tiger deaths (tiger reserve-wise and year-wise), during the last three years and current year, as reported by States

S.No.	Name of the Tiger Reserve	Name of the State	2011		2012		2013			2014 (as on 18.7.2014)		
			Poaching including seizure	Natural & Other causes	Cases under scrutiny	Poaching Including seizure	Natural & Other causes	Cases under scrutiny	Poaching Including seizure	Natural & Other causes	Cases under scrutiny	Poaching Including

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
2	Kaziranga	Assam	1	3	1	2	1	5	1	0	3	0	0
3	Manas	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Valmiki	Bihar	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
5	Bandipur	Karnataka	0	1	2	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	0
6	Bhadra	Karnataka	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple	Karnataka	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
8	Dandeli-Anshi	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Nagarhole	Karnataka	2	1	0	0	2	4	1	0	1	0	0
10	Periyar	Kerala	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Bandhavgarh	Madhya Pradesh	0	3	1	0	2	5	0	1	3	0	0
12	Kanha	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
13	Panna	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
14	Pench	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	Satpura	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Melghat	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0
17	Pench	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Tadoba-Andhari	Maharashtra	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
19	Similipal	Odisha	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
20	Ranthambhore	Rajasthan	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
21	Sariska	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Anamalai	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
23	Mudumalai	Tamil Nadu	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
24	Sathyamangaiam	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
25	Dudhwa	Uttar Pradesh	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Corbett	Uttarakhand	0	8	0	1	3	2	2	0	2	0	0
27	Sundarbans	West Bengal	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0

		Total	4	27	7	12	19	24	8	4	20	0	4
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Other causes include death due to accident or infighting or elimination by Department etc.

ELEPHANT RESERVE

9th July, 2014

LSQ *146

Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

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

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

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-Tamparpingla 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:

- Habitat improvements and restoration of Elephant Corridors in PE Range states under PE Scheme (CSS)
- 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.