

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 34**  
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

**Encroachment on Elephant Corridors**

\*34. SHRI N. REDDEPPA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking measures to reduce the encroachment of 29 per cent of the elephant corridors in the country that are leading to a further reduction in movement space for elephants to travel between their larger habitats, thereby increasing the chances of getting into conflict with the local population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of other such measures being taken by the Government to curb the encroachment in this respect and restore human-wildlife balance?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV):**

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

\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*34 REGARDING 'ENCROACHMENT ON ELEPHANT CORRIDORS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2024.**

(a)to(d): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in coordination with the State Forest Departments, has ground validated 150 elephant corridors across 15 elephant range states (i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal) in India during 2021-23. The report on the Elephant Corridors of India was released during the World Elephant Day, 2023 by the Ministry and circulated to States/UTs for taking necessary steps to protect and conserve the elephant corridors.

The management of wildlife habitats including elephant corridors is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations. In case forest land falling in any wildlife habitat is diverted for any developmental use, Wildlife Management Plan and/or Wildlife Mitigation Plan are usually prepared and implemented by the respective State Government. Protection and conservation measures are also taken accordingly on case to case basis.

In addition, the following measures taken by Ministry also help in protecting elephant corridors:

- (i) The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger & Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitat in the country.
- (ii) Various other Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by this Ministry contribute to the improvement in the natural habitat of elephants by augmenting water sources, planting of fodder trees, regeneration of bamboo etc. Such scheme includes Development of Wildlife Habitat. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and the Rules made there under also provide for use of the Fund for development of wildlife habitats, including for elephants, establishment of animal rescue centres, etc. which also contribute to reduction in Human-Elephant Conflict.
- (iii) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also issued Guidelines to States/UTs on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 on managing Human Wildlife conflicts including damage to crops. It includes promotion of crops in forest fringe areas which are unpalatable to wild animals and agro forestry models which include cash crops like chillies, lemon grass, khus grass etc. suitably mixed with tree/shrub species. It also includes preparation and implementation of comprehensive long-term plan for alternate cropping by the state Agriculture/Horticulture Department under different schemes in vulnerable areas.
- (iv) The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest, and Climate Change, National Highway Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and World Bank has published a document namely 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' (2016) to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railways lines, in a manner that reduces human-animal conflicts.

- (v) A field manual for frontline staff to manage Human Elephant Conflict was released during the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of Project Elephant on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.
- (vi) The Ministry also released a Guidelines for Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation-Taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach (2023) for addressing human-elephant conflicts.
- (vii) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Mainstreaming Management of The Elephant Reserves” was conducted on 13-15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (viii) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Minimizing the Impact of the Railway on Elephants and Other Wildlife” for the officials of Indian Railways was conducted on 23-25<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- (ix) A Capacity Building Workshop on “Mainstreaming Management of The Elephant Reserves was conducted on 28-29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

\*\*\*\*\*