



No. WII/RTI/CPIO/2022-23 (Qtr-III)/56

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

To,

BIMAL GOGOI  
CHANDMARI. MAJAR ALI,  
P.O. GOLAGHAT, ASSAM, Pin:785621  
Assam, India  
Email: bimgog@gmail.com

Sub.: Information under RTI Act, 2005-reg.

Ref.: Your Online RTI No. WLIOI/R/T/22/00008 dated 10/11/2022

Sir,

Please refer to your application cited above under RTI Act, 2005. In this context, the information sought by you has been collected from concerned authority of the Institute (**Annexure-I -5**)

If you are not satisfied with the above reply, you may appeal to the Appellate Authority of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(M.M. Uniyal)

N.O. & CPIO **ATTESTED**

CPIO, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun

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**Ref:** WII/RTI/CPIO/2022-23 (Qtr-III)/55, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
**RTI #:** WLIOI/R/T/22/00008 (RTI transferred from MoEF&CC)  
**Applicant:** Shri. Bimal Gogoi, Golaghat, Assam

**Q1. Sir, is there any SOP prepared by your ministry regarding movement of trains which cross any animal corridors and within 10 km of Protected Area/Eco Sensitive Zones? If yes, please issue a copy of the latest SOP/guidelines**

**Response:**

SOP, if any, regarding train movement in wildlife areas may be obtained from respective states. This office does not have that information.

It may be noted that for new infrastructure projects, the Standing Committee of the NBWL during the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of NBWL dated 25/01/2018 recommended that linear infrastructure proposals would be accompanied by an animal passage plan, if required, by the project proponent on the basis of Wildlife Institute of India guidelines (Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife, ([https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/eco\\_friendly\\_measures\\_mitigate\\_impacts\\_linear\\_infra\\_wildlife\\_compressed.pdf](https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/eco_friendly_measures_mitigate_impacts_linear_infra_wildlife_compressed.pdf)) and in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden of respective states.

**Q2. Sir, is there any SOP for Deptt. Of Railway for their trains which pass Elephant Corridors and within 10 km of Protected Area / Eco Sensitive Zones? if yes, please issue to me the copy of the SOP/guidelines for Railway meant for their trains and Elephant Corridors**

**Response:**

The Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests jointly issued general advisories to prevent train accidents involving elephants vide No. 2007/TT-IV/9/8 dated 30/03/2010 issued by Ministry of Railways (*copy enclosed*).

The Project Elephant Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India vide D.O. No. 2-12/2012-PE dated 28<sup>th</sup> December 2016 issued to West Bengal Forest Department, provided suggested steps/precautions to minimize deaths of elephants due to train accidents (*copy enclosed*)

**Q3. Sir, have your ministry issued any notice, order to the Deptt. of Railway for movement of their trains which pass elephant corridors? If yes, please issue me the copies of such letters/notices/orders**

**Response:**

Response provided in 2 (above) may be referred. State-specific information is not available at this office and may be obtained from respective state Forest Departments.

INFORMATION PROVIDED  
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भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
रेल मंत्रालय/MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
रेलवे बोर्ड/RAILWAY BOARD

No.2007/TT-IV/9/8

New Delhi, dated 30.03.2010

The General Manager,  
N.F. Railway/Guwahati,  
East Coast Railway/Bhubaneswar  
and Southern Railway/Chennai

**Sub:** General Advisories to prevent train accidents involving Elephants.

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In the meeting held on 4.9.2009 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Environment and Forests regarding death of elephants in train accidents, it was desired that Board and Ministry of Environment and Forests should work out the advisory of general nature to prevent elephant's death in train accidents.

Accordingly, general advisories received from Ministry of Environment and Forests have been considered in consultation with MOEF and concerned directorates in Board's office. The general advisory as approved by MOEF and concerned directorates in Board's office is attached herewith for necessary action.

(I. Jeyakumar)  
Joint Director Traffic Trans. (POL)  
Railway Board

DA: As Above

**Copy to:**

✓ Shri A. N. Prasad, IG of Forests & Director (Project Elephant),  
Ministry of Environment and Forests,  
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

OSD(ME), Adv.(Safety), Adv.(M&L), EDCE(P), ED/Chg. and EDTT(S), Railway Board

on file

Indd  
12-14

S.O. 12/4/2010  
30.4.2010

INFORMATION PROVIDED  
UNDER RTI



General Advisories to prevent Train accidents involving Elephants.  
(Jointly issued by MoR & MoE&F)

1. Clearance of Vegetation on the sides of Railway track  
Zonal Railways will identify in consultation with Forest department the vulnerable areas and will arrange need based cleaning of vegetation on the sides of Railway track within Railway land.
2. Underpasses/overpasses across the Railway track to allow elephants to escape.  
MoE&F will provide a list of selected locations for underpasses/overpasses. The cost will be borne by the MoE&F and the work will be executed by Railways on deposit terms.
3. Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers.  
Signage boards will be provided by Railways on both sides of the track in identified locations to pre-warn the train drivers.
4. Sensitising programmes for Train drivers/Guards/Station Masters  
The Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters will be sensitized on wild life conservation/Protection during Periodical Refresher courses at nominated Zonal Railway Training Centres. The required training materials will be provided by MoE&F. Also MoE&F may depute staff for special lecture on wild life conservation. Railway Board will furnish the list of such zonal institutes to MoE&F.
5. Engagement of Elephant trackers by MoE&F and communication with Station Masters.  
MoE&F will engage elephant trackers equipped with mobile phone/walkies to receive/pass on information regarding presence of elephant herds around track length.  
  
Separate wireless communication facility will be provided at the stations falling within the vulnerable areas identified by the MoE&F. On receipt of information, SM will give "Look out advice" to the train crew verbally or otherwise. The advice will be initially for two hours only unless or otherwise extended. Moreover the length of the section should be within 2 km.
6. To keep Railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants.  
Railways will advise IRCTC/pantry car staff not to throw the edible waste in the vulnerable area. Announcement will be made at the stations located near vulnerable locations advising the passengers not to throw food waste.



Annex. 4

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डॉ. एस. एस. नेगी  
Dr. S.S. NEGI



वन महानिदेशक एवं विशेष सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREST & SPL. SECY.  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE

D.O. No. 2-12/2012-PE

Dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

Dear Sh Vyas

Death of elephants due to train accidents has assumed alarming proportion in recent past. As per news report, at least 18 (eighteen) elephants have been killed during last 5 (five) months across the country. This includes 2 elephant casualties in Tamil Nadu (June, 2016); 3 in Kerala (July and November, 2016); 3 in West Bengal (August, 2016); one in Uttarakhand (October, 2016) and 7 in Assam (December, 2016).

It is requested that frontline forest staff are put on high alert and suitable preventive actions are taken to minimize death/injury to elephants and other wild animals due to train accidents, in consultation with State railway authorities. Some of the precautionary measures are enclosed. Every elephant casualty should be enquired into and the enquiry report along with post mortem report of elephants should be submitted to the Ministry at the earliest.

With regards,

Encls: As above

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Sharad Singh Negi)

To,

Shri Pradeep Vyas, IFS  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Chief Wildlife Warden,  
Department of Forests,  
Government of West Bengal.

INFORMATION PROVIDED  
UNDER RTI





**Suggested Steps/Precautions to Minimise Deaths of Elephants  
due to Train Accidents**

1. Identification of vulnerable Sections of railway tracks
2. Regular patrolling of vulnerable stretches of railway tracks by frontline forest staff and wildlife watchers.
3. Forming co-ordination committees of officers of Railways and SFDs. Exchange of emails/telephone numbers of concerned officers.
4. Sending letters, emails, SMS messages regarding presence of elephants near vulnerable railway tracks.
5. Clearing of vegetation along railway tracks to allow unhindered and clear view to train drivers.
6. Providing signage's at suitable points to alert train drivers about elephant presence.
7. Avoid dumping of food waste along railway track to avoid unnecessary congregation of elephants and other wild animals near railway track.
8. Moderating slopes for elevated sections of railway tracks so that elephants can negotiate these easily.
9. To provide under pass/over pass at selected places for safe passage of elephants.
10. Regulation of train speed from sunset to sunrise in vulnerable stretches.
11. Sensitisation of staff of SFDs, Railways and local people.