

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3074  
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007  
MISSING ELEPHANTS  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) The number of elephants found missing during the past three years in the country;
- (b) the exact cause of missing of such elephants; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the declining population of elephants?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a),(b)&(c) Countrywide estimation of elephant population in wild are done on a five year cycle. The last estimation was done in the year 2002. Estimation exercise for 2007 census is under way and is likely to be completed by December, 2007. The comparative estimated population of wild elephants in the country in past census are as follow:

Year	Estimated Population
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1980	15627
1985	18975
1989	20862
1993	25604
1997	25877
2002	26413

It is evident from the above that wild population of elephants in the country has not declined. However, the Central Government has taken several steps to protect elephants which includes launching of Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant" in the year 1991-92; creation of elephant reserves in the country; creation of wildlife crime bureau, ban on ivory trade etc. As per reports received from State/UT Governments from time to time, major causes of elephant deaths are natural deaths, death due to electrocution, death in train accidents, death due to poaching etc.