



भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
वन्यजीव अपराध नियंत्रण ब्यूरो
Wildlife Crime Control Bureau



F. No. 12-12/WCCB/2023/Part 1313

Date: 01.12.2023

To

The IGF (PT & E) & Director
Project Elephant, MoEF&CC

Sub: Constitution of the Committee to inspect the recent death of Elephants in the State of Jharkhand due to electrocution:-reg.

Ref. OM F. No. 2-3/2020-PE/GOI/MoEF&CC dated 24th November 2023.

Sir,

With reference to the office memorandum and subject cited above, the committee constituted visited Jharkhand from 25th to 27th November 2023 and conducted inquiry regarding recent deaths of elephants in the State of Jharkhand due to electrocution. The inquiry report is herewith attached for perusal and necessary action.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(H.V.GIRISHA, IFS)
Additional Director
WCCB, BHQ New Delhi

Copy to:

1. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC.
2. PPS to the Director Wildlife Preservation and ADG (WL)
3. PPS to ADGF (PT&E) and MS, NTCA, MoEF&CC.

Enquiry Report on Elephant Electrocutation Incidences in East Singhbhum and Giridih Districts of Jharkhand During November 2023



Composition of the enquiry committee

1. Shri. H.V. Girisha, IFS, Joint Director, WCCB, – Chairman
2. Shri. Patruni Rajendra Naidu, IFS, CF Ranchi – Member
(Rep. of the PCCF&HoFF, Government of Jharkhand)
3. Dr. N. Lakshminarayanan, Scientist, Elephant Cell, WII – Member
4. Shri. Mantosh Mani Singh, General Manager, Revenue – Member
(Rep. of Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd (JBVNL))

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
New Delhi

Enquiry Report on Elephant Electrocution Incidences in East Singhbhum and Giridih Districts of Jharkhand During November 2023

Background

The State of Jharkhand, located in the East-Central landscape of India harbors approx. 650 – 700 endangered Asiatic elephants (*Elephas maximus*). In recent years there has been a spurt in Human-Elephant conflicts due to various reasons. The trend indicates that the conflicts will continue to raise if proper precautions and mitigation measures are not adopted. During November 2023, consecutive incidences of elephant deaths attributed to electrocution were reported from the state. Among the series of incidences, there was an incident involving the death of five elephants together in Jamshedpur Forest Division in the East Singhbhum District. Looking at the seriousness of the issue, the MoEF&CC constituted a committee to enquire into the vide O. M. F-No.2-3/2020-PE dt. 24th Nov, 2023 (Enclosure – I) with the following members:

1. Shri. H.V. Girisha, IFS, Joint Director, WCCB, – Chairman
2. Rep. of the PCCF&HoFF, Government of Jharkhand – Member
(Shri. Patruni Rajendra Naidu, IFS, CF (Ranchi))
3. Dr. N. Lakshminarayanan, Scientist, Elephant Cell, WII – Member
4. Rep. of Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd (JBVNL) – Member
(Shri. Mantosh Mani Singh, General Manager, Revenue)

The specific Terms of Reference (ToR) for the committee is to conduct an enquiry into elephant deaths due to electrocution in Jharkhand and the action taken by the State Forest Department. The committee was directed to submit the report to the MoEF&CC by 15th December 2023 with recommendations for mitigation of such (electrocution) incidences in the future.

In compliance of the OM, the committee reached Ranchi on 25th Nov. 2023 and started the enquiry on the elephant electrocution incidents.

DAY – I: (25-11-2023)

- The committee members had elaborate discussions with the PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Jharkhand Shri Kulwant Singh, IFS regarding the elephant electrocution incidents reported during the month of November 2023 in Jamshedpur and Giridih Forest Divisions. The documents relevant to the electrocution incidences were obtained from the O/o. PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Jharkhand.
- As per the discussions, the committee found that there were 04 electrocution incidents including death of 08 elephants during Nov, 2023. The details are given in the table 1.

Table-1: Elephant deaths reported in Jharkhand during November 2023

Incident Number	Date	Location	Range & Division	Number of Deceased Elephants
1	1st Nov	Poornapani village, Chakulia block, East Sighbhum District	Chakulia Forest Range, Jamshedpur Forest Division	1
2	2 nd Nov	Machadiha village, Chakulia block, East Sighbhum District	Chakulia Forest Range, Jamshedpur Forest Division	1
3	21 st Nov	Upperbandha village, Musabani block, East Singhbhum District	Musabani Forest Range, Jamshedpur Forest Division	5
4	23 rd Nov	Chitarpur village (Tola-Nimatand), Fulchi Gram Panchayat, Giridih District	Khurchutta Forest Range, Giridih East Forest Division	1

- Subsequent to collection of the aforementioned information from the, Jharkhand, the committee planned to have discussions with the Forest Officials, officials from the JBVNL, officials of the Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), and the veterinary doctor who carried out elephant postmortem at Jamshedpur.
- The team also planned to visit all four sites of elephant electrocution in Jamshedpur and Giridih East Forest Divisions and to have discussions, during the field visits, with the villagers and frontline staff of the Forest Department, JBVNL and their field formations. The tour details are as follows:
 - 25/11/2023: Arrival at Ranchi. Discussions with PCCF & HoFF, Government of Jharkhand and other members of the committee

- 26/11/2023: Travel to Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum District and site visits to the Ist , IInd and IIIrd incident sites in Jamshedpur Forest Division as mentioned in Table-1
- 27/11/2023: Travel to Giridih District and site visit to the fourth field site as mentioned in Table-1. Return travel to Ranchi and consultation with other officials.

DAY – II: (26-11-2023)

Visit to Incident No -1:

The committee visited the site of Incident-1 on 26th November. The Committee was accompanied by DFO, Jamshedpur Smt. Mamata Priyadarshi, Range Forest Officers Shri Digvijay Singh, and their field team from the Forest Department. From the JBVNL, Shri Deepak Kumar, Electrical Superintending Engineer, Jamshedpur and Shri Rajkishore, Electrical Executive Engineer, Ghatshila

Details of the incident as recorded by the Forest Department:

- On 30/10/2023, a herd of 12 elephants ranging in Sonahara village received an electric shock from a low-hanging 11 KV power transmission line. The pole carrying the transmission line was located on the embankment of the pond. A few elephants received electric shock. After receiving the shock, the herd of elephants moved away from the site into the nearby forests.
- On 1/11/2023, the Forest Department staff received information that a cow elephant lying dead in the paddy field. The paddy field was in the ready-to-harvest stage.

Action taken by Forest Department:

1. The postmortem of the deceased animal was carried out on 01/11/2023 (PM report not made available).
2. The sagging wires in the whole Jamshedpur Forest Division were assessed and a letter was sent to JBVNL on 07/11/2023 & reminder letter dated 21/11/2023 including 67 identified locations with a request to repair all the sagging wires.
3. Departmental Offence Report no 001610 has been registered by the Forest Department on 01/11/2023 against Executive Engineer Ghatshila, Assistant Electrical Engineer, Chakulia and Junior Electrical Engineer, Chakulia for death of Elephant due to negligence in their respective work function.

Action taken by Power Department:

1. The committee was informed that in 22 out of 67 locations, the sagging wires have been rectified and along with the Range Forest

Officer, a joint inspection has also been completed.

2. The sagging 11 KV power transmission line in Sonahara and Surda village has been repaired.

Observations and deliberations by the committee:

- The Committee visited the both the site where elephants reportedly received electric shock from the 11 KV transmission line and also the site where the carcass was found and subsequently, postmortem was carried out. In the site where the dead elephant was found, the paddy has been wholly harvested. After postmortem, the elephant has been buried in the site.
- The aerial distance between the location of receiving electric shock and subsequent death of the elephant was 4.5 km
- The Committee spoke to several local villagers who came to the site during the inspection.
- The photographs of the deceased elephant taken before the postmortem were also examined (Enclosure – II).
- It is seen in past that Elephants, upon electrocution, die instantly and mostly in the same location. However, this was not the case.
- Dr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Touring Veterinary Officer, who was enquired later at Jamshedpur mentioned that during the postmortem, the vitals such as the heart and genitals showed signs of electrocution. He further mentioned that the external injuries seen before conducting postmortem also indicated that the animal had received an electric shock. He also told that the circumstantial evidences including that of eyewitnesses from the village who saw elephants receiving the electric shock indicated that the animal died due to electric shock received on 30/10/2023.
- Since the case of elephants receiving electric shock and subsequently dying a few kilometers away is generally rare, it may be pertinent to await receipt of laboratory report from IVRI.
- During the visit of the Committee, the sagging 11 KV wire was already found rectified.

Visit to Incident No -2:

The committee visited the site of Incident-2 on 26th November. The Committee was accompanied by DFO, Jamshedpur Smt. Mamata Priyadarshi, Range Forest Officers Shri Digvijay Singh, and their field team from the Forest Department. From the JBVNL, Shri Deepak Kumar, Electrical Superintending Engineer, Jamshedpur and Shri Rajkishore, Electrical Executive Engineer, Ghatshila.

Details of the incident as recorded by the Forest Department:

- On 30/10/2023, a herd of 12 elephants ranging in Sonahara village received an electric shock from a low-hanging 11 KV power transmission line. The pole carrying the transmission line was located on the embankment of the pond. A few elephants received electric shock. After receiving the shock, the herd of elephants moved away from the site into the nearby forests.
- On 02/11/2023, the Forest Department staff received information that a cow elephant that appeared weak and had difficulty in walking near by forest area.
- The elephant tried to cross the CPT (cattle-proof trench) near the village road to get into the forest. However, based on eyewitnesses, the animal got down into the CPT, but couldn't climb over. It walked in the trench for about 20 meters and remained there. The villagers even tried providing water to the elephant (picture enclosed). The elephant did not recover. Eventually, it succumbed to death near the CPT.

Action taken by Forest Department:

1. The postmortem of the deceased animal was carried out on 02/11/2023 (PM report not made available).
2. The sagging wires in the whole Jamshedpur Forest Division were assessed and a letter was sent to JBVNL on 07/11/2023 and a reminder dated 21/11/2023 including 67 identified locations where the sagging wires have to be fixed.
3. The departmental Offence Report No. 001206 has been registered by the Forest Department on 02/11/2023 against Executive Engineer Ghatshila, Assistant Electrical Engineer, Chakulia and Junior Electrical Engineer, Chakulia for death of Elephant due to negligence in their respective work function.

Action taken by Power Department:

1. The committee was informed that in 22 out of 67 locations, the sagging wires have been rectified and along with the Range Forest.
2. The sagging 11 KV power transmission line in the village has been repaired.

Observations and deliberations by the committee:

- The Committee visited the both the site where elephants reportedly received electric shock from the 11 KV transmission line and also the site where the carcass was recorded and subsequently, postmortem was carried out.
- The aerial distance between the location of receiving electric shock and subsequent death of the elephant was 5 km
- The pictures of the deceased elephant taken before the postmortem were also examined (Enclosure - III).

- It is seen in past that Elephants, upon electrocution, die instantly and mostly in the same location. However, this was not the case.
- Dr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Touring Veterinary Officer, Barhagora whom we enquired later at Jamshedpur mentioned that during the postmortem, the vitals such as the heart showed signs of electrocution. He further mentioned that the external injuries seen before conducting postmortem also indicated that the animal had received an electric shock. Furthermore, the circumstantial evidences including that of eyewitnesses from Sonahara village chakulia ward no. 9 that saw elephants receiving the electric shock indicated that the animal died due to electric shock received on 30/10/2023.
- Since the case of elephants receiving electric shock and subsequently dying a few kilometers away is generally rare, it may be pertinent to await receipt of laboratory report from IVRI.
- During the visit of the Committee, the sagging 11 KV wire was already found rectified.

Visit to Incident No -3:

The committee visited the site of Incident-3 on 26th November. The Committee was accompanied by DFO, Jamshedpur Smt. Mamata Priyadarshi, Range Forest Officers Shri Digvijay Singh, and their field team from the Forest Department. From the JBVNL, Shri Deepak Kumar, Electrical Superintending Engineer, Jamshedpur and Shri Rajkishore, Electrical Executive Engineer, Ghatshila.

Details of the incident as recorded by the Forest Department:

- On 21/11/2023, a herd of 9 elephants crossed the Subarnarekha River and came to Upperbanda forest patch near Upperbandha village.
- On the night of 21/11/2023, the elephants came into contact with a 33 KV power transmission line.
- Five out of nine elephants died on the spot.
- Acting up on the information by the villagers post noon, on 22/11/2023, the Forest Officials reached the site at 3:00 PM, and found five dead elephants lying together underneath the 33 KV transmission line.

Action taken by Forest Department:

1. The postmortem of the deceased elephants was carried out on 22/11/2023.
2. The Forest department has registered OR No. 002801 against Director, Hindustan Copper Limited(HCL), Managing Director, HCL, Assistant Electrical Engineer, Ghatshila and Junior Electrical

Engineer, Musabani.
<p>Action taken by Power Department:</p> <p>1. In the 33 KV line, the conductor that caused electrocution of elephants, the power supply was disconnected.</p>
<p>Observations and deliberations by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous eyewitnesses from the village were present during the inspection by the committee. One of the high witnesses from Upparandha Shri. Kumar Jitesh mentioned that sagging in the line was reported several times in the past as well. However, the sagging issue was not addressed at all resulting in the electrocution. • The villagers further mentioned that elephants have been sporadically using this Upparandha area for many decades. Annually, about 10-15 elephants use this area • One of the villagers mentioned that around 8:00 PM on 21/11/2023, elephants vocalized frantically and villagers saw blaze of fire following which there was a power shutdown. On the following morning, the villagers went to the site at around 12:00 noon and saw the dead elephants. The Forest Staff reached the site at around 3:00 pm and found 5 dead elephants. • The pictures of the deceased elephant taken before the postmortem were also examined (Enclosure – IV) • The conductor that caused electrocution of elephants was sagging at a low height of 8-9 feet from the ground. The conductor had charred tissues of elephants sticking to it • In this case, it is very much evident that the low sagging wire was the cause of electrocution. The conductor was sagging at 8 – 9 feet from the ground. It may be noted that the average height of adult elephants is around 8 to 9.5 feet. Large bulls can attain 10 feet height and in exceptional cases even about 11 feet. • Since elephants occur as a family unit and were possibly moving together during the incident, 5 out of 9 elephants in the herd were electrocuted in this single incident.

DAY – III: (27-11-2023)

Visit to Incident No -4:

The committee visited the site of Incident-4 on 27th November. The Committee was accompanied by Shri Ravindra Kumar Mishra, Conservator of Forest, Shri Parvesh Agarwal, Divisional Forest Officer, Giridih and Concerned Range Forest Officers, and their field team from the Forest Department. From the JBVNL Shri Pratosh Kumar, GM, Giridih along with Executive Engineer Shri Gautam.

<p>Details of the incident as recorded by the Forest Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 23/11/2023, a large herd of elephants was using the scrub forests near village Chitarpur (Tola - Nimatand) of Fulchi Panchayat in the Giridih district • A young male elephant (tusker) came into contact with a low-hanging 11 KV transmission wire and was electrocuted • The transmission line was sagging at around 6'6"
<p>Action taken by Forest Department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Department engaged a team of veterinary doctors to conduct the postmortem on 23/11/2023 2. The Offence Report No. 001664 dated 23/11/2023 was registered by the Forest Department against Electrical Executive Engineer, Giridih Electrical Junior Engineer, Giridih, Electrical Assistant Engineer, Giridih and Electrical Line Man, All from Electrical Supply Division South Office, Giridih.
<p>Action taken by Power Department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following the electrocution incident, the Power Department erected a pole in between two existing poles to reduce sagging. 2. Repair of sagging wires has been taken up at the site of electrocution.
<p>Observations and deliberations by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The villagers of Chitarpur reported that the transmission wires in the area were sagging precariously low in numerous locations threatening both human and animal lives. They mentioned that numerous village livestock in the past were also electrocuted. The villagers further mentioned that the issue was taken up with the power supply officials, but were not resolved • The pictures of the deceased elephant taken before the postmortem were also examined(Enclosure - V) • During the time of Committee's visit, it was noticed that the wires were sagging in other locations too and the some of the poles were slanting.

PREVAILING RULES AND GUIDELINES

In the 17h Steering Committee of Project Elephant held on 12.08.2022 at Periyar Elephant Reserve, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of the condition of the lines/conductors so as to avoid sagging/ loose ends etc. and for undertaking other suitable protective measures for the lines passing through elephant reserves and wildlife sanctuaries with special attention in monsoon months, so that any untoward incidents are avoided and deaths caused by electrocution may be minimized/eliminated.

MOEF&CC vide their letter No. 6-104/2019 WL dated 29/08/19 had requested all the concerned stakeholders for implementation of the recommendations of the task force constituted by the MOEF&CC.

The letter dated 31.08.2022 issued by the Chief Electrical Inspectorate Division, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power advised all stakeholders including Electricity Supply Utilities, DISCOMs, Transmission companies and State Electricity Boards for rectification sagging transmission lines and cable of existing transmission line in the protected areas and maintain Minimum required clearances as specified in the Central Electricity Authority (Measures Relating to Safety and Electric Supply) (as amended) Regulation, 2010.

Officials of DISCOMs/TRANSCOs and Forest Department will do joint inspection Joint inspection of every transmission / distribution line passing through the protected areas or passing through the vicinity of protected Areas, at least thrice a year, once before onset of monsoon and once after monsoon so as to identify potential problem stretches.

The Ministry of power also has advised respective DISCOMs/TRANSCOs to use ABC (aerial bunched cables) or underground cable to prevent electrocution of animals in the forest areas. In case of the overhead lines. The clearance above ground of the lower conductor of 11 KV/ 33 KV. Overhead lines should be as per CEA. They also advised Setting up of reinforced electric poles fitted with spikes to prevent elephants rubbing against them. Also, insulate overhead wires across all elephant habitat and elephant movement zones and remove /dismantle all defunct solar powered fences.

The notification Dt 20.09.2010 issued by the Central Electricity Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 177 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003), has made the provision for regulating measures

relating to Safety and Electric Supply U/s 58 (3) *i.e.,....*" no conductor of an overhead line including service lines, erected elsewhere then along or across any street shall be at a height less than For lines of voltage up to and including 11,000 Vols, if bare-4.6m, For lines of voltage up to and including 11,000 Volts, if insulated -4.0m and For lines of voltage exceeding 11,000 Volts but not exceeding 33 KV- 5.2m.

Sec 60 (3) of the latest notification of Central Electricity Authority dated 08.06.2023, which reads that the Electric lines of 33 KV and below passing through the protected areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves) Eco-sensitive zones around the protected areas and Wildlife Corridors, only underground cable shall be used.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In all four incidents examined, committee members observed definite sagging of electrical transmission lines in both 11 and 33 KV in scenes of crime. The lowest height is much less than the prescribed minimum height which is 4.6 meter for 11 KV and 5.2 meter for 33 KV. The committee also observed that due to lack of coordination between the departments, there were no joint inspections by forest and electricity departments which should be done at least thrice a year, including before and after monsoon. The committee also observed that there were no UG cables (Underground) or insulated cables installed to reduce the electrocution of wildlife including elephants as per the latest notification dated 08.06.2023. The committee after enquiring into the facts and circumstances, recommend the following actions

- A. Initiate criminal action against the errant personnel and agencies.
 - I. All cases of elephant electrocutions in the state of Jharkhand may be reviewed for thorough investigation and filing complaint in court of law to initiate criminal actions on errant personnel.
 - II. During the enquiry, of incident 3, criminal negligence of the Hindustan Copper Limited has been reflected. Hence a criminal action could be initiated on priority.
 - a. 33 KV line belonging HCL shall be immediately repaired to remove sagging and raise the pole height. The lower 2 conductors of the alignment are to be removed with immediate effect and shifted to the top of the double-pole structure. In the second phase, while modifying the existing alignment, insulated conductors should be used instead of naked conductors.
 - b. The status of forest clearance/lease issued to HCL for power transmission line shall be reviewed and evaluated by the Forest Department on a priority basis.
 - c. Wherever possible and necessary, re-routing the power transmission lines out of sensitive wildlife/elephant areas may be explored and pursued.
 - III. During the enquiry, of incident 4, criminal negligence of the JBVNL (Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.) has been reflected. Hence a criminal action to be initiated on priority.
 - IV. In incident 1 and 2, the dead body/carcass of elephants were found far away from where the actual electrocution occurred. The investigating officer from forest department is advised to investigate the matter in more details and corroborate with statement from the eye witness, photographic evidences and Post Mortem reports.

B. Identifying the areas with elephant movement and removal of sagging.

- I. In Jharkhand, the elephant movement is spatially widespread with few hotspots, the Forest Department shall provide a list of villages with reported elephant movement on a priority basis including all elephant-range villages throughout the state to the agency responsible for maintaining electrical line and the agency shall remove the sagging followed by joint inspection to verify the same

Explanation: In Jharkhand, the elephants are distributed over a large area and move extensively through man-modified areas including crop fields. In addition to elephant herds operating in the landscape, there are many elephant bulls that may occur solitarily, in small groups, or move along with the herds. Given this extensive and unpredictable elephant movement, providing the exact location of elephant occurrence to line agencies like the power department, highways, and railways will be highly impractical. Thus, the forest department should provide the location of villages that elephants use to the Electricity Dept.

- II. The concerned agency responsible for maintaining the electricity lines shall address the issues related to sagging and other potential transmission-related threats to both people and wildlife on priority.
- III. Jharkhand Forest Department shall map all the power transmission lines (33 KV, 11 KV, 440V, and 230V) passing through forests and other wildlife sensitive areas all through the State and maintain a database. The database can be used for vulnerability analysis.

C. Regular monitoring and maintenance of electricity lines

- I. The Energy department shall device a mechanism for regular monitoring and maintenance and of power transmission lines by the State Energy Department and the agencies working under it for
 - a. Preventing sagging of electricity wires.
 - b. Providing clear passage for wires passing through trees/vegetation.
 - c. Identifying and replacing weak poles, conductors and wires on a regular basis. The Energy Dept. may constitute a technical high-level committee of the electrical engineers to identify the best material quality materials that can be used in forest areas so as to withstand the wear.
 - d. Intensifying monitoring during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons.
- II. The Forest Department shall examine and expedite site inspection and subsequently grant permission on priority to the Energy Department

and the other allied agencies for clearing vegetation as requested for above.

D. Certain activities to be prohibited near electricity lines

- I. The Forest Department should refrain from digging trenches, raising plantations, and erecting fences under the power transmission lines. A trench may be dug at safe distance of 10 feet away from the electricity lines.

E. Capacity building of officials of Forest, Energy and Veterinary department.

- I. Trainings may be organized for enhancing the capacity of the forest officials for proper registering of offences, evidence collection, investigation and prosecution
- II. Energy department officials needs to be sensitized about the general behavior, movement, safety and security required for wildlife
- III. Jharkhand Forest Department and Veterinary Dept. may identify the list of veterinarians who can be trained to address issues related to wildlife in general and elephants in particular. The trained team of veterinarians would be critical to streamline procedures related to Wildlife rescue, treatment, and necropsy.

F. The State Government to address the concerns of funds and manpower and Inter-Departmental Coordination

- I. The Energy Department officials interacted with the committee reported major funding concerns that preclude timely and effective maintenance. Since inadequately maintained power transmission lines pose a threat to both human and wild animal safety, the State Government may assess the funding concerns of the Energy Department on priority.
- II. Improving inter-departmental cooperation: The State Govt. may establish a mechanism for
 - a. Active coordination and collaboration of Forest Department and the Energy Department along with other line agencies to ensure safe habitat and passage conditions for elephants and other wildlife.
 - b. Joint inspection by both Forest department and Electricity department should be done at least thrice a year (as mentioned in the guidelines dated 31/08/2022 of Central Electricity Authority, GoI) and the information of which should be sent to the higher authorities of respective departments.
 - c. Quarterly meetings by the State Government to review and monitor the progress.
- III. Both the Jharkhand Forest Department and the Energy Department agencies raised concerns related to inadequate manpower that

hinders timely maintenance. The State Government may evaluate and address the manpower concerns of both departments.

- IV. The State Government shall ensure the compliance of the provision of Sec 60 (3) of the latest notification of Central Electricity Authority dated 08.06.2023, which reads that the Electric lines of 33 KV and below passing through the protected areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves) Eco-sensitive zones around the protected areas and Wildlife Corridors, only underground cable shall be used.
- V. The State Government shall ensure that all conditions imposed in the diversion of forest land for 11 KV and 33 KV should be implemented by the user agency, especially specific conditions pertaining to prevention of electrocution of wildlife such as use of insulated cables, underground cables, circuit breakers, etc.
- VI. The State Government shall examine the circumstances leading to human-elephant-conflicts resulting in human and elephant deaths in past 10 years in Jharkhand and also examine the release and effective utilization of funds released by the Project Elephant, MoEF&CC.

Member
Mantosh M. Singh
General Manager(R)
JBVNL, Ranchi
Jharkhand

Member
Dr.N.Lakshminarayanan,
Scientist,
Elephant Cell,
WII, Dehradun

Member
P. R. Naidu IFS
CF Ranchi
Rep of PCCF & HoFF,
Govt of Jharkhand

Chairman
H.V. Girisha IFS
Joint Director
WCCB, MoEF & CC
New Delhi

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The member of the committee Mr Mantosh M. Singh, General Manager (R), JBVNL, Ranchi was requested to sign the Enquiry report prepared by the committee, on Elephant Electrocution Incidences in East Singhbhum and Giridih Districts, but he did not turn up.

I have also spoken to Mr. Mantosh. Mr. Naidu spoke to him many times to sign the report. He did not turn up to sign the report.

Conservator of Forest
Territorial Circle, Ranchi

F. No. 2-3/2020-PE

Government of India/ भारत सरकार

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change/ पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन

मंत्रालय

(Project Tiger & Elephant Division / व्याघ्र एवं हथी परियोजना प्रभाग)
*****2nd Floor, Agni Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 24th November, 2023

OFFICE MEMORANDUM**Sub: Constitution of the Committee to inspect the recent death of elephants in the State of Jharkhand due to electrocution -reg.**

A committee to inspect the recent death of elephants, due to electrocution, in the State of Jharkhand is constituted as under:

1. Sh. H.V. Girisha, Joint Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau - Chairman
2. Dr. N. Lakshminarayanan, Project Scientist, WII - Member
3. Representative: PCCF & HoFF, Govt. of Jharkhand - Member
4. Representative: Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd. - Member

The Committee shall enquire the recent death of elephants due to electrocution in the State of Jharkhand and the action taken by the State Forest Department in this regard. The committee will submit the report to the Ministry by 15th December, 2023 with recommendations for mitigation of such incidents in future.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Signed by Rajendra Kumar

Date: 24-11-2023 14:10:37

(Dr. Rajendra Kumar)

Reason: Approved
Scientist 'C' (Project Elephant)
Email: kumar.rajendra@gov.in**Distribution:**

- All the members of the Committee.

Copy to:

- PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC.
- PPS to ADGF (PT&E) and MS, NTCA, MoEF&CC.
- PS to IGF (PT&E) & Director (Project Elephant), MoEF&CC.

- The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Energy Cum CMD JUVNL Cum MD JBVNL.
- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, State of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Wardens, State of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
- The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Enclosure-II



Photographs of Incident -1

On 01.11.2023 Poornapani village, Chakulia block, East Sighbhum District, Chakulia Forest Range, Jamshedpur Forest Division death of one elephant

Enclosure-III



Photographs of Incident -2

On 02/11/2023 electricution leading to the death of an elephant at Machadiha village, Chakulia block, East Sighbhum District, Chakulia Forest Range, Jamshedpur Forest Division

Enclosure-IV



Photographs of Incident -3

On 21.11.2023 electricution by 33 KV line leading to death of 05 elephants at Upperbandha village, Musabani block, East Singhbhum District, Musabani Forest Range, Jamshedpur Forest Division

Enclosure-VI



Photographs of Incident -4

On 23.11.2023 Electricution leading to death of one elephant at Chitarpur village (Tola-Nimatand), Fulchi Gram Panchayat, Giridih District, Khurchutta Forest Range, Giridihi East Forest Division.