

Indian Railways". Some of the main Recommendations of C&AG Report and action taken on the same are detailed below:

- *Identification and notification of elephant passages should be reviewed periodically in consultation with the Forest Department.*

The Palakkad Division and Forest Department of Palghat and Coimbatore District reviews the elephant crossing passages during their regular review meeting. The review is done on a regular basis apart from specific reviews based on movement of elephant inside forest ranges and sighting/crossing of elephant near railway track as reported. The following sections are identified as elephant passages and Permanent Speed Restriction (PSR) of 45 kmph imposed from dusk to dawn (18.00 hrs to 06.00hrs).

'A' LINE

SN	Between Stations	UP/DN Direction	From km	To km	Speed Restriction (in KMPH) (18.00hrs to 06.00hrs.)
1	Madukkarai – Ettimadai	DN	497/6	499/4	45
2	Ettimadai – Kanjikode	DN	505/0	515/0	45
3	Kanjikode– Palakkad	DN	525/10	527/20	45
4	Palakkad – Kanjikode	UP	527/20	525/10	45
5	Kanjikode– Ettimadai	UP	515/0	505/0	45
6	Ettimadai– Madukkarai	UP	499/4	497/6	45
7	Ettimadai– Walayar – Kottekad	UP&DN			Whistle continuously since wild elephants likely to cross the track

'B' LINE

SN	Between Stations	UP/DN Direction	From km	To km	Speed Restriction (in KMPH) (18.00hrs to 06.00hrs.)
1	Madukkarai- Ettimadai	DN	497/3	499/3	45
2	Ettimadai– Palakkad	DN	505/0	520/31	45
3	Kanjikode– Palakkad	DN	525/0	527/25	45
4	Palakkad – Kanjikode	UP	527/20	525/10	45
5	Palakkad– Ettimadai	UP	520/31	505/0	45
6	Ettimadai- Madukkarai	UP	499/3	497/3	45
7	Ettimadai– Walayar – Kottekad	UP&DN			Whistle continuously since wild elephants likely to cross the track


 वरिष्ठ मंडल इंजीनियर / सहायोजन / पालक्काड
 Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Palakkad

Speed restriction of 45kmph is imposed for 13.9 km in 'A' line from 18.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs and in 'B' line, a total of 19.41km is having a permanent speed restriction of 45kmph from 18.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs on account of frequent crossing of wild elephants and a PSR of 65kmph for passenger trains and 25kmph for Goods train for a length of 18.84 kms in A line. Similarly, a PSR of 65kmph for passenger trains and 25kmph (DN Direction)/ 35 Kmph (UP Direction) for Goods train for a length of 27.5 kms exists in B line. (Copy of WTT is enclosed).

- *Sensitizing programme of awareness workshop should be conducted for Station Masters/Train drivers/Guards to sensitize them about elephant conservation.*

Joint meeting with Forest Rangers of Forest Department and Supervisors and Officers of Palghat Division from Railways to sensitize the Loco Pilots/Guards/Keyman/Trackmen about elephant conservation and working on track. A workshop was conducted on 07/02/2019 at Palakkad by Forest Department on the topic of Human elephant interaction, which was attended at the level of DRM/PGT and concerned Divisional officers. The various measures undertaken by PGT Division to mitigate elephant run over was discussed during the course of the workshop.

- *The signage boards to pre-warn the drivers should be standardized w.r.t. colour, shape, height, placement, position etc;*

In PGT Division, the erected signage board is as per the MoEF recommendations circulated by Railway Board in September 2017 and the design given by Wild Life Trust of India at desired locations to pre-warn the Train Drivers.

In addition to above, the general advisories circulated vide Railway Board's Letter No.2011/TT-IV/9/8 dated 30/03/2010 like regular clearance of vegetation alongside the track, fixing of signage boards, sensitizing programme for train drivers /guards etc. are being followed. As suggested by the Parliamentary standing committee, a co-ordination committee between Railways (at the level of DEN) and Forest Official (at the level of DFO) is being made and periodical review meeting is also conducted.

CASES OF ELEPHANT HIT BY TRAIN:

The first case of elephant death on railway track was reported in 1978 at km 507/600-700 in 'A' line. The Loco Pilots are sensitized to report any elephant sighting as well as any elephant hit case through Control which is immediately informed to Forest Officials. The year wise details of Elephant hit cases between KJKD -- MDKI section is tabulated below:



बारकड मंडल इंजीनियर / सन्नायोजन / पालककाड
Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Palakkad

SN	Year(s)	No of Elephant Hit Reported
1	2010	1
2	2010 to 2015	NIL
3	2016	4
4	2017	NIL
5	2018	1
6	2019	2
7	2020	3
8	2021	1

The detailed tabulation of cases is attached vide Annexure A (Excel Sheet). There is no dispute of reporting of elephant hit/ death between Forest and Southern Railway of Palakkad Division.

4. The 4 th respondent / Southern Railway submits that the following are the effective measures taken by the Southern Railway Palakkad Division;-

VARIOUS MEASURES TAKEN BY PALAKKAD RAILWAY DIVISION TO MITIGATE ELEPHANT HIT BY TRAINS

1. Speed Restriction on the Vulnerable Section:

Speed restriction of 45kmph is imposed for 13.9 km of vulnerable section in 'A' line from 18.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs and in 'B' line, a total of 19.41 km of vulnerable section is having a permanent speed restriction of 45kmph from 18.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs on account of frequent crossing of wild elephants (Copy of WTT is enclosed.). Even during the daytime, a permanent speed restriction of 65kmph is imposed in these vulnerable sections for passenger trains and 25/35kmph for Goods trains. Standing Committee on Railways 2013 had recommended speed restriction of 50 kmph at vulnerable locations as agreed both by Forest and Railway Department.

2. Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers:

The signage design given by the Wild Life Trust of India has been erected at desired locations to pre-warn the Train Drivers and also to whistle continuously to warn the Elephants. Special attention is given for maintaining the visibility of these signage boards.

3. Wires with low voltage at boundary to deter elephants:

In Kerala Forest area, solar fencing at ground level with safe electric voltage of 12V has been provided for a length of 7.1 km in 'B' line near railway track area and 3.2 km in 'A' line to deter elephants. The fencing has been proven very effective to prevent entry of elephant herds inside railway track area.

4. Elephant Ramps:

Ramps are being provided at suitable locations for passage of elephants without getting entrapped near railway track area. The



locations for provision of ramps are jointly decided by Railway and Forest Department. At present, elephant ramps are provided at Km 506A/100, 506/400, 506A/300 in Ettimadai-Walayar section at high bank location as per the guidelines from Tamil Nadu Forest Dept for easy passage of elephants. Watch Towers has also been provided inside Forest Area at dedicated locations to map the movement of elephant out of Forest area. Railway is providing more ramps at suitable locations in Railway Embankment area along with Cess widening work in consultation with Forest Department of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

5. Lights toward away elephants from Railway Cutting:

Between Kanjikode and Walayar, Railway line is passing through two cuttings – first one at Km 510/900—511/200 and other one at Km 512/200-400. There are chances of elephant getting trapped inside these cuttings, so solar lights have been provided to ward away elephants at both ends of the cutting. The solar lights also help in improving the visibility for Train Drivers during night time.

6. Installation of audio alarm with honey bee sound

This has been installed at Level Crossing number No. 154 between Kanjikode and Walayar on 'A' line to scare away the elephants. This system has been adopted based on the successful trial conducted in NFR earlier. It is informed that after installation of the audio alarm system, no case of elephant crossing near the level crossing is reported.

7. Widening of Cutting & Cess making:

Earth work for widening of cutting has been done between Km 513/500 - 519/400, Km 500/00 – 505/00 on 'B' Line. This will help the elephant to move away from track on sighting of coming train, as sufficient space has been made available there. To further safeguard elephants near Railway track area, Cess widening including provision of ramps at three more locations between Kanjikode and Madukarai is in progress at a cost of Rs 6.4 crore. Moreover, manmade ponds were made at the toe of cutting so that elephant need not cross the track in search of water during summer.

8. Engagement of elephant trackers by MoEF and communication with Station Masters:

Elephant Trackers have been deployed by forest Department of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and a system of communication have been set up with Railway Control. The Loco Pilots are pre-warned by control in case any information of elephant sighting is reported. This is major action which is helping to control the accidents.

9. Sensitizing Programmes for Train Drivers/Guards/Station Masters:

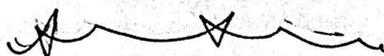
Regular sessions are held with Forest Department to sensitize the Loco Pilots for taking action to protect the Elephants at Palakkad. Regular meetings with DFO/Palghat (Forest) and DEN/East/Palghat (Railways) is also conducted for discussion on various issues related to Forest and Railways. Last meeting was conducted at DFO Office Palghat and attended by DEN/East/Palghat and ADEE/G/Palghat to study the working of Hanging Solar Fencing on 25th June 2021.

10. Under passes across the Railway Track to allow elephants to escape:

Railway Board vide letter No. 2008/CE-II/Safety/1(Fencing) dated 07/12/2010 has circulated the minutes of the inter-ministerial meeting between Railways and the Ministry of Environment and Forest held on 05/03/2010. One of the decisions taken in the above meeting was that the Ministry of Environment and Forest will bear the cost of work and the work will be executed by the railway on deposit terms. In this connection and as recommended by the WTI in their report a rough estimate of three work(Tamil Nadu area) mentioned below was prepared and sent to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife warden, Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai – 600015 (on 28/11/2012) for their acceptance and remittance of required amount to process further.

1 Rail fencing and widening cuttings and side drains between Madukarai and Walayar stations 'A' & 'B' lines)	= Rs.25, 08,30,268/-
2 Under bridge on B line at km 506/900-506/A-000 between Ettimadai and Walayar Stations	= Rs.2, 15, 43,337/-
3 Under bridge on B line at km 505A/400-500 between Ettimadai and Walayar Stations	= Rs.2, 16, 51,199/-
Total	= Rs.29, 40, 24,804/-

Similarly, in Kerala area also, a detailed estimate for provision of fencing for a length of 20kms (at km510/0 to 513/0 'A' line for 3km & at km 510/500 to 518/0 on 'B' line including Km516A for 17 kms (both side of the track) was prepared for an amount of Rs.12,11,46,215/- and sent to the Chief Conservator of Forest, Kerala for their acceptance and as a permanent mitigation measure. Despite reminding many times for the same, the centage charges are yet to be remitted by Forest department. Further processing will be done by Railways only after the remittance of the centage charge.



ਬਾਰਠ ਮੰਡਲ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ / ਸਮ.ਬਾਯਨ ਪ ਲਕਕਾਡ
Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Palakkad

11. Regular clearing of vegetation:

As discussed during regular meetings with Forest Department, work of clearing of vegetation up to 5 m of track side and 10m of track side at specified locations is being carried out regularly by Railway. The work is being executed by Railway in timely manner in consultation with Forest Department. This clearing of vegetation helps in identifying any elephant hiding inside forest area from a longer distance as well as in improving the visibility for loco drivers to take timely action.

12. Interaction of Forest officials and Railways realtime:

A WhatsApp group has been created with Forest officials including Rangers and Forest watchers and Railway officials including Control offices as part of the group. The real-time movement of elephants entering into Railway track side are immediately reported by Forest officials in the group and immediate lookout caution for LPs n ALPs are issued immediately by Railways at the reported locations. Moreover, Speed restrictions are also imposed immediately at the reported locations whenever the elephants are sighted near to the track. These steps mitigate the hitting of the pachyderms many a times.

5. The 4th respondent / Southern Railway submits that the following are the various other steps planned to protect the wild life;-

VARIOUS MEASURES PLANNED BY PALGHAT DIVISION TO FURTHER MITIGATE ELEPHANT HIT BY TRAINS

1. Provision of Hanging Solar Fencing parallel to Railway Track:

The hanging solar fencing has been provided in Wayanad and Dhoni range of Kerala by Forest Department and the same has been found to be successful in preventing elephants crossing. Therefore, in consultation with the Forest Department of Palghat, Kerala, it is planned to provide hanging solar fencing for a length of 1.5km between Kanjikode - Walayar section on 'B' line, so as to prevent elephant from crossing into the railway area and at same time, small animals will be able to cross the fence.

2. Elephant Signage Boards:

As agreed, to in the recent meeting held between DFO/PGT and DRM/PGT, twenty more elephant signage boards are to be provided near tracks on locations as jointly inspected and advised by Forest Department. The fixing of boards is planned to be completed by July 2021.


 श्री. डी. वेंकटेश्वर / समायाजन / पालक्काड
 Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Palakkad

3. Barricading /Solar fencing /Lighting along the Railway track:

To safeguard the wild elephants from collision with trains, an estimate for providing rail fencing, widening cuttings and side drains between MDKI-WRA stations ('A' & 'B' lines) and at km510/0 to 513/0 'A' line for 3km & at km 510/500 to 518/0 on 'B' line including 516A for 17 kms (both side of the track) was prepared and sent to Forest Department for acceptance and remittance of centage charge. The same is yet to materialize.

6.The 4th respondent / Southern Railway submits that the above plan for provision of Hanging solar Fencing, Rail Fencing between Walayar and Madukkarai stations in both 'A' and 'B' Lines and viaducts/elephant underpasses in the identified locations of Elephant crossings could be effectively implemented with the active cooperation of the Forest department and local and state Government. At this juncture this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to fix time frame to execute the project to protect the wild life especially Elephants.

It is there prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to pass suitable orders and thus render justice.

Dated at Palakkad on this 6th day of JULY 2021

 COUNSEL FOR 4TH RESPONDENT/
SOUTHERN RAILWAYS


4TH RESPONDENT/
SOUTHERN RAILWAYS
शारद मंडल इंजीनियर / समन्वयन / पालक्काड
Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Palakkad

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FILED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT

S.NO	DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS	PAGE NO
1.	Photographs showing preventive measures to protect wild animals	1-5
2.	Minutes of meeting between Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forest	6-9
3.	Correspondences for Rail Fencing and Elephant Passes	10-20

The above documents are certified to be true

Dated at Palakkad on this 6th day of JULY 2021

Verification

I, H. Anantharaman S/o. G. Hariharan working as Sr. DEN/Co-ordination, Southern Railway, Palakkad filing this reply statement on behalf of the 4th respondent in my official capacity based on the records and hereby declared that what is stated in Para 1 to 6 are true to the best of my knowledge, belief and information.

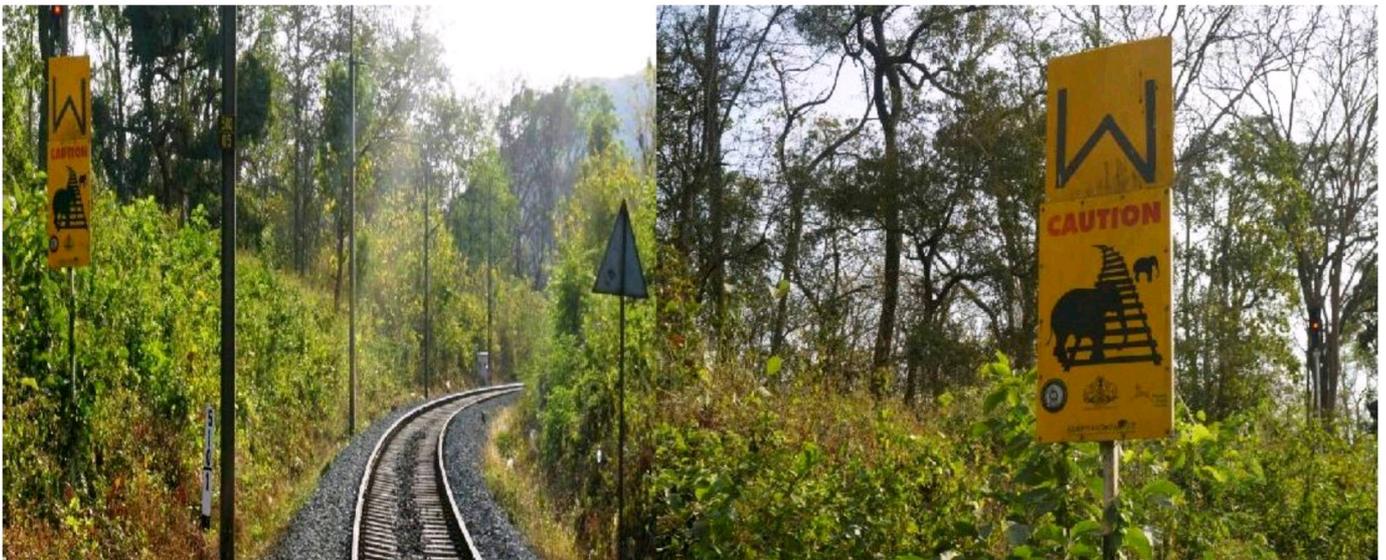
Verified at PGT on this 6th day of JULY 2021


4TH RESPONDENT
SOUTHERN RAILWAYS
शारद मंडल इंजीनियर / समन्वयन / पालक्काड
Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Palakkad

1. Speed Restriction of 45 kmph on the Vulnerable Section:



2. Signage boards to pre-warn the Train Drivers:



3. Elephant Ramps:



4. Lights toward away elephants from Railway Cutting:



5. Audio alarm with honey bee sound



6. Widening of Cutting & Cess making:





7. Engagement of elephant trackers by MoEF and communication with Station Masters:



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on 20.08.2020 WITH FOREST OFFICERS

Venue: Through Zoom Meeting at 16.30 HRS

Present:

S.RLY / PALGHAT DIVISION (S/Shri)	Forest Department
P.S. Shami, DRM/PGT	NarendraNathVeluri, DFO/PGT
H. Anantharaman, Sr.DEN/Co-ordn./PGT	Aneesh, Forest Ranger
P.L. Ashok Kumar, Sr.DOM/PGT	
S. Jayakrishnan, Sr.DEE/OP/PGT	
Jatin Kumar, DEN/East/PGT	
Kannadasan.R, ADEN/PGT	
Usman, SSE/P-Way/PTJ/West	

At the outset, H. Anantharaman, Sr.DEN/Co-ordn./PGT welcomed DFO, Palakkad and all the Officers & Supervisors. It was mentioned that the meeting is conducted on an online platform due to pandemic COVID – 19. This is in continuation to the regular meeting conducted to monitor the movement of the elephants and to ensure the safety of the trains and passengers.

1. DFO/PGT informed that, movement of the elephants and incidents related to railway track is less than expected due to lockdown and restriction in movement of vehicles. The elephant movement has increased due to the reduction of number of trains. It was pointed out by DEN/East that the number of elephants crossing/hitting has increased between 20.00 hrs to 06.00hrs.
2. It was apprised that the whatsapp group for sharing movement of elephant near to track is active.
3. It is reported that two elephants were hit by loco in this year. Both are safe and in healthy condition now. DFO mentioned that due to vegetation nearby tracks, and less service of trains, elephants are moving near to the tracks. Two tusks are moving around the tracks frequently. DFO requested to impose speed restriction again and requested to run more number of locos (dead run) may be run frequently between KTKD and ETMD whistling continuously as there is less number of trains.
4. DEN/East expressed that movement of the elephants is more in Tamil Nadu area particularly between km 506 to 507 and 510 to 511. Now the vegetation is almost removed comparatively last year particularly in 'B' line. At present speed restriction of 45kmph is imposed in this section. It is not recommendable to reduce the speed again as it may lead to stalling of Loaded goods trains.
5. Sr.DEE/OP also reiterated that further reducing the speed below 45kmph, there is a chance of wheel slip of the train due to gradient. Hence, it is not advisable. Regarding frequent operation of locos between PGT to ETMD section particularly in 'B' line will be examined. Sr.DEE/OP also informed that, as soon as any information/message received from Loco Pilot/Patrol man/Forest department the information should be immediately passed on to all concerned.

6. Sr.DOM/PGT agreed to run dead locos frequently between the sections which needs to be jointly decided with SrDEE/OP/PGT.
7. Sr.DEN/Co-ord./PGT mentioned that sometimes the information of the movement of elephant is getting after passing the elephant only. Some sort of fore warning measures to be taken.
8. DFO mentioned that bamboo trees need to be cut at approach of WRastation which attracts elephant. ADEN/PGT was advised for taking necessary action. DEN/East requested to permit the cutting of trees in forest area for which request was sent through Itrdt 23.06.2020. DFO advised the same is under process and will be permitted in few days.
9. DFO suggested providing the IP cameras with artificial intelligence and alarm system to monitor the movement of the elephants is successful in Karnataka and the same may be explored in above forest belt. The approximate cost will be 1.2 crore for both A and B line.
10. DRM suggested that being a national issue, some other measure to be taken to spot the elephant ie, either through Satellite or tracking device for elephant. DRM/PGT suggested to conduct the meeting once in a month. DFO/CBE may also be invited for the meeting as movement of the elephant is more in Tamil Nadu area.

दाक्षिणरलव/ Southern Railway

No. J/W.506/11/WL

मडलकायालय/ Divisional Office

सकमशाखा/Works Branch

पालक्काड/ Palghat.

।दनाक/Dated: 27/08/2020.

JATIN KUMAR
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by JATIN KUMAR
Date: 2020.09.04
16:10:45 +05'30'
(JATIN KUMAR)
DEN/East/PGT

Copy to: Sr.DEN/Co-ord/PGT, Sr.DOM/PGT, Sr.DSO/PGT, Sr.DSTE/PGT,
Sr.DEE/OP/PGT and DFO/PGT

DRM/PGT & ADRM/PGT: for kind information.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WITH DFO/PGT ON 17-03-2021.

Venue : DRM's chamber.

Present :

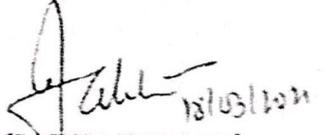
S. No	PGT Division (S/Shri)	Designation	S. No	Forest Dept. (S/Shri)	Designation
1	Trilok Kothari	DRM	1	Kurra Sreenivas	DFO/PGT
2	Sakkeer Hussain C.T.	ADRM-II	2	P. Suresh	Walayar RO
3	H. Anantharaman	Sr.DEN/Co-ordn.	3	Anil Kumar J.	SFO RRT
4	S. Jayakrishnan	Sr.DEE/OP.	4	Badusha M.	SFO P North
5	Jatin Kumar	DEN/East	5	Aneesh Sankarankutty	Elephant Monitoring
6	Joseph Mathew	AOM/Coaching			
7	R. Kannathasan	ADEN/PGT			

1. At the outset, DRM welcomed Divisional Forest Officer, Forest officials and Railway officers for the meeting.
2. DEN/East/PGT briefly explained the steps/measures taken by Railways to safeguard wild life and Elephants viz., speed restriction, clearing of vegetation & provision of signage boards, electric fencing, ramps etc.
3. DFO informed that around 2 herds consisting of 5 to 7 Elephants are roaming inside the area between A and B lines, however, watchers have been deployed to track their movement. DRM requested for creation of more ponds in forest area, so that Elephants would not come out of the forest in search of water.
4. Discussed the following action plan to be taken by Railways and Forest department.
 - a) Immediate sharing of information through Whatsapp group regarding sighting of Elephants by Forest department to Railways, that immediate step can be taken to warn the Driver of train to be cautious and for lookout.
 - b) Provision of more number of signage boards at desired locations, so as to facilitate Loco Pilots to whistle continuously and drive away the Elephants for which point inspection with Railways (Supervisor) & Forest Ranger at site to be done.
 - c) Widening of cuttings to increase visibility with provision of ramps at suitable locations jointly selected with Railways & Forest Ranger.
 - d) Clearing of vegetation on the sides of Railway track post monsoon season.
 - e) Provision of more number of ramps for elephants to easily escape/cross the railway track.

Contd...2..

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5. Initially, joint inspection at Supervisory level consisting of officials from Railway & Forest department will be conducted to find out the location for provision of signage boards/ramps & widening of cuttings etc. Subsequently, joint inspection at officers level will also be conducted. Date of inspection will be decided by DEN/East/PGT in consultation with Forest department.
6. Due to the increased sighting of elephants, Forest officers requested for review of speed during night. It was informed that further reduction of speed is not possible as the trains may not be able to negotiate steep gradients in the section, therefore, it was decided that the existing section speed of 45 kmph at night on this section would be kept in force.
7. Since, rail fencing along the railway track is very costly, alternative cost effective methods of fencing like crash guard/hanging/solar fencing etc., were discussed. DFO informed that details of cost effective method of fencing would be shared by him.
8. DEN/East/PGT requested DFO to look into the tree cutting, standing in forest area, which needs to be cut before onset of monsoon to avoid any unusual to train movement on this account.
9. It was decided to hold meetings at frequent interval, preferably once in a month.


(JATIN KUMAR)
DEN/East/PGT

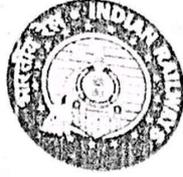
दक्षिण रेलवे / Southern Railway

सं/No. J/W.506/II/WL

दिनांक/Date: 18-03-2021.

Copy to : ADRM-II, Sr.DEN/Co-ordn./PGT, Sr.DEE/OP./PGT, Sr.DOM/PGT & DFO/PGT.

" DRM - for kind information please.



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सं.जे/डब्ल्यू./ No. JW.506/11/WL (Ty)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Chief Wildlife Warden,
Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud,
Thiruvananthapuram – 695014.
KERALA STATE.

दक्षिण रेलवे/Southern Railway,
मंडल कार्यालय/Divisional Office,
संकर्म शाखा/Works Branch,
पालक्काड/ Palakkad,
Dt. 13.02.2014.

Sir,

विषय/Sub: Work proposals on deposit terms for the provision of rail fencing
to minimize the elephant mortality in Walayar ghats. (Kerala Area)
संदर्भ / Ref: This office letter of even no dated 20.12.2012, 05.03.2013 &
27.03.2013.

Your kind attention is invited to this office letters under reference, wherein in a rough estimate for a sum ₹.12,11,46,215/- showing the works to be undertaken by the Railways on deposit terms as per the decision taken in the meeting held on 05.03.2010 between Railways & MoE&F and as recommended by the WTI in their report was sent to you to submit the consent of Forest department to proceed further.

The Forest department has neither remitted the centage charges as claimed in token of acceptance for the proposal nor submitted any reply regarding this issue. The Railway administration is not in a position to proceed further unless a proper communication is received from your end.

As the railway administration is not in a position to proceed further due to non remittance of the centage charges, it is once again requested that the matter may kindly be taken up on top priority and arrangement made for the remittance of the required amount to Railways at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

S. S. Sathyan
13/02/14

मंडल रेल प्रबंधक/ संकर्म /पालक्काड

Divisional Railway Manager/Works/Palakkad.

प्रति/Copy:- PCE/MAS – for kind information.

CF - JW.506/11/WL

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दक्षिण रेलवे/Southern Railway,
मंडल कार्यालय/Divisional Office,
संकर्म शाखा/Works Branch,
पालक्काड/ Palakkad,
Dt.07.03.2014.

सं.जे/डब्ल्यू./No. J/W.506/11/WL/(Ty)

प्रमुख मुख्य इंजीनियर/चेन्नै
Principal CE/MAS

(for the kind attention of Dy.CE/TMS)

विषय/Sub: Forest – Wildlife – Minutes of the meeting held on 04.09.2009
under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of the Environment
on Train accidents- Estimate report requested – Reg.

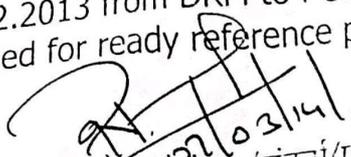
संदर्भ / Ref: HQ's letter No.W.315/265/3/Genl/vol.XVII dated 04.03.2014.

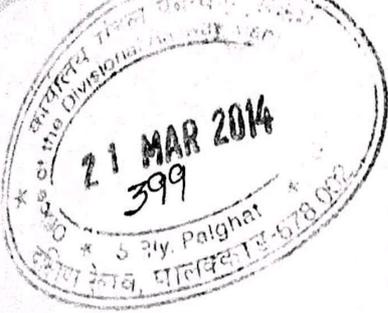
The matter has been examined in detail. In this connection it is brought to your kind notice that the abstract estimate for the three works as mentioned below costing of ₹ 29,40,24,804/- has already been sent to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai vide this office letter of even no dated 29.11.2012. It was also advised to remit a sum of ₹ 58, 80,496/ towards centage charges @ 2 % of the estimate cost.

This estimate was prepared and sent to the Forest department as per the decision of the Inter-Ministerial Meeting held on 5.3.2010 at New Delhi and as advised by Headquarters letter No.W.315/265/3/Genl/Vol-XV of 30.5.2011, that all the works will be executed by Railways on deposit terms for which the cost will be borne by Ministry of Environment & Forest.

1. Rail fencing, widening cutting and side drain	- ₹ 25,08,30,268/-
2. Under bridge on B line at km 506/900-506A/000 between ETMD-WRA	- ₹ 2,15,43,337/-
3. Under bridge on B line at km 505A/400-500 between ETMD-WRA	- ₹ 2,16,51,199/-
Total	- ₹. 29,40,24,804/-

There were several reminders sent to the Forest authorities vide this office letter of even no dated 12.02.2013, 05.03.2013, 27.03.2013, 13.02.2014 and from CBE/MAS vide letter No.W.75/J/107 dated 29.11.2013 & 05.02.2014 for the remittance of the required amount to Railways so as to take up the work on deposit terms. A copy of this office letter dated 29.11.2012 where the estimate was sent to the party and a copy of the letter dated 12.02.2013 from DRM to PCE highlighting all the details as required by GM/MAS are enclosed for ready reference please.
Encl: As above.


मंडल रेल प्रबंधक/संकर्म/पालक्काड
Divisional Railway Manager/Works/Palakkad



SOUTHERN RAILWAY

165

Headquarters Office
Works Branch
Chennai - 600 003
Dt. 19.03.2014

W.315/265/3/Gen/Vol.XVIII

Thiru. Lakshmi Narayanan, I.F.S.
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
& Chief Wildlife Warden,
Panagal Building, Saidapet,
Chennai 600 015.

Handwritten initials 'AB' with a checkmark.

Sir,
Sub : Forest – Wildlife – minutes of the meeting held on 04.09.2009 under the Chairmanship of Honorable Minister of the Environment on Train accidents – Estimate report requested – regarding
Ref : Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wildlife Warden letter No. WL2/47330/2012 dated 12.02.2014.

Reference the above, it is advised that abstract estimates of the 3 works mentioned below was sent to your office vide DRM/W/Palghat letter No. J/W.506/11/WL (Ty) dated 28.11.2012 as per the decision of the inter ministerial meeting held on 05.03.2010 at New Delhi. It was also advised to pay a sum of Rs. 58,80,496/- towards the centage charges at the earliest, so as to prepare relevant plans and other required formalities.

(a) Rail fencing and widening cuttings and side drains between Madukkarai-Walayar stations (A&Blines)	Rs.25,08,30,268/-
(b) Under bridge on "B" line (km.506/900-506A/000) between Ettimadai-Walayar stations	Rs. 2,15,43,337/-
(C) Under Bridge on "B" line (km.505A/400-500) between Ettimadai-Walayar stations	Rs. 2,16,51,199/-
Total	Rs.29,40,24,804/-

This has been mentioned as reference (4) in your letter cited above.

Please take necessary action.

Yours faithfully

Handwritten signature of K.K. Sharma dated 19/03/2014.

(K.K.SHARMA)
Chief Track Engineer
For Principal Chief Engineer

Sr. DEN/Co-ord.	Handwritten initials
Sr. DEN/I	Handwritten initials
DEN/II	Handwritten initials
DEN/Br.	Handwritten initials

Copy to: Sr.DEN/Co-Ord/PGT

172
9

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Headquarters Office
Works Branch
Chennai - 600 003
Dt. 19.03.2014

1.315/265/3/Genl/Vol.XVIII

Shri. Lakshmi Narayanan, I.F.S.
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
Chief Wildlife Warden,
Saidapet Building, Saidapet,
Chennai 600 015.

Sir,
Sub : Forest – Wildlife – minutes of the meeting held on 04.09.2009
under the Chairmanship of Honorable Minister of the Environment
on Train accidents – Estimate report requested – regarding
Ref : Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wildlife Warden letter
No. WL2/47330/2012 dated 12.02.2014. f 90

Reference the above, it is advised that abstract estimates of the 3 works
mentioned below was sent to your office vide DRM/W/Palghat letter No. JW.506/11/WL
(Ty) dated 28.11.2012 as per the decision of the inter ministerial meeting held on
05.03.2010 at New Delhi. It was also advised to pay a sum of Rs. 58,80,496/- towards
the centage charges at the earliest, so as to prepare relevant plans and other required
formalities. f 90

(a) Rail fencing and widening cuttings and side drains between Madukkarai-Walayar stations (A&Blines)	Rs.25,08,30,268/-
(b) Under bridge on "B" line (km.506/900-506A/000) between Ettimadai-Walayar stations	Rs. 2,15,43,337/-
(c) Under Bridge on "B" line (km.505A/400-500) between Ettimadai-Walayar stations	Rs. 2,16,51,199/-
Total	Rs.29,40,24,804/-

This has been mentioned as reference (4) in your letter cited above.

Please take necessary action.

Yours faithfully

प्रेषण अनुमोदित
दिनांक.....
लिपिक का हस्ताक्षर.....
प्रधान कार्यालय (संकर्म शाखा)
दक्षिण रेलवे, चेन्ने-3.

DESPATCHED

Signature of the Clerk.....
Head Quarters Office (Works Branch)
Southern Railway, Chennai-3.

19/3/2014
(K.K.SHARMA)
Chief Track Engineer
For Principal Chief Engineer

For signature please
approved draft at f 93.



173

Headquarters Office
Works Branch
Chennai - 600 003
Dt. 11.08.2014

W.315/265/3/Genl/Vol.XVIII

Thiru. Lakshmi Narayanan, I.F.S.
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
& Chief Wildlife Warden,
Panagal Building, Saidapet,
Chennai 600 015.

Sir,

Sub : Forest – Wildlife – minutes of the meeting held on 04.09.2009 under the Chairmanship of Honorable Minister of the Environment on Train accidents – Estimate report requested – regarding

- Ref : 1) Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wildlife Warden letter No. WL2/47330/2012 dated 23.07.2014.
2) This office letter of even No. dated 19.03.2014.

Already this office has advised the details sought by you, vide this office letter of even No. dated 19.03.2014.

However, a copy of the letter reference is enclosed herewith. Further clarification, if any, required may be got from Divisional Railway Manager/Works/Palakkad.

Yours faithfully

(Signature)
(K.K.SHARMA)
Chief Track Engineer
For Principal Chief Engineer

Sr.DEN/Co-ord	<i>(Signature)</i>	ADEN/CTR	
Sr.DEN/E		SSE/Drg.	
DEN/AJ		Section	WT
DEN/Br.			

12/8/14

Copy to: Sr.DEN/Co-Ord/PGT for information and necessary action to ensure that the abstract estimates reach PCCF, Chennai.



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दक्षिण रेलवे/Southern Railway,
मंडल कार्यालय/Divisional Office,
संकर्म शाखा/Works Branch,
पालक्काड/ Palakkad,
Dt.13.01.2015.

सं.जे/डब्ल्यू./ No. J/W.506/11/WL (Ty)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden,
Forest Headquarters, "Vanalakshmi"
Thiruvananthapuram – 695014.

Sir,

विषय/Sub: Work proposals on deposit terms for the provision of rail fencing
to minimize the elephant mortality in Walayar ghats. (Kerala Area)

संदर्भ / Ref: This office letter of even no dated 20.12.2012, 05.03.2013,
27.03.2013 & 13.02.2014.

Your kind attention is invited to this office letters under reference, wherein in a rough estimate for a sum Rs.12,11,46,215/- showing the works to be undertaken by the Railways on deposit terms as per the decision taken in the meeting held on 05.03.2010 between Railways & MoE&F and as recommended by the WTI in their report was sent to you to submit the consent of Forest department to proceed further.

The Forest department has neither remitted the centage charges as claimed in token of acceptance for the proposal nor submitted any reply regarding this issue. The Railway administration is not in a position to proceed further unless a proper communication is received from your end.

As the railway administration is not in a position to proceed further due to non remittance of the centage charges, it is once again requested that the matter may kindly be taken up on top priority and arrangement made for the remittance of the required amount to Railways at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

V. Raju 13/1/15
मंडल रेल प्रबंधक/ संकर्म /पालक्काड
Divisional Railway Manager/Works/Palakkad.

प्रति/Copy:- PCE/MAS – for kind information.

dfc
hi
13/1/15



SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Headquarters Office,
Works Branch,
Chennai-3.
Date.05.08.2016.

✓
DRM/W/PGT

(12)

Sub : Deep cutting and widening of Railway tracks to minimize Elephant mortality.

Ref : Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu, Forest Department
Ir. No.WL2/47330/2012 dated 31.5.2016.

With reference to the above CBE has endorsed as below:

"Advise Sr.DEN/PGT to prepare a detailed estimate as per (A) decided upon and send to CTE & CBE within a week".

Encl : Copy of reference letter.

Antony St.Jean
5/8/16
(Antony Vijaya St.Jean)
ABE/HQ.
for Chief Bridge Engineer.

Sr. DEN/Coord	<i>ADEN/CTR</i>	
Sr. DEN/East	SSE/Drg.	<i>Wall</i>
DEN West	<i>Section</i>	<i>WT</i>
DEN/Am	<i>chos</i>	<i>9/8/16</i>

ABE
S
S/12/12

DyCE/Br. Advise S DEN/PGT to prepare a detailed estimate as per (A) decided upon and send to CTE & CBE with a week
103/08/16 CTE
26/07

CTE
DyCE/Br
22/7
25/7
Bridges

From
Dr. V.K. Melkani, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Chief Wildlife Warden,
Panagal Building, Saidapet,
Chennai-600 015.



To
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment and Forests Department,
Fort St. George, Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

Ref.No. WL2/47330/2012 dated 31.05.2016

Sir,

Sub: Deep cutting and Widening of Railway Tracks to minimize Elephant mortality - reg.

- Ref:
1. Sr.Den/Co-ordn./PGT, Divisional Office, Works Branch, Southern Railway, Palghat letter No. JW.506/11/WL dated 18.02.2010
 2. Principal chief conservator of Forests and chief wildlife warden Ref. no. WL2/34705/2009 dated 28.05.2010
 3. Government letter no. 11157/FR.5/10-3, dated 11.08.2010
 4. Inspector General of Forests, Project Elephant Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India letter F. No. 6-8/2009 - PE dated 24.09.2010
 5. Divisional Railway Manager, Works branch, Palakkad, Southern Railway letter No. J/W.506/11/WL (Ty) dated 28.11.2012.
 6. Principal chief conservator of Forests and chief wildlife warden Ref. no. WL2/47330/2012 dated 12.08.2013
 7. The General Manager, Southern Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India letter no. GM/2015/NRO dated 27.05.2015
 8. Government letter no. 9969/FR.5/2015-1 dated 03.06.2015
 9. Divisional Railway Manager, Works branch, Palakkad, Southern Railway letter No. J/W.506/11/WL (Ty) dated 30.12.2015.

I wish to inform that, consequent to train accident between Coimbatore and Palghat station during the period from 2002 to 2009 about 16 elephants death have occurred. Therefore in order to prevent accident in the reference 1st cited, a tentative estimate for Rs. 20.57 Crores was received from the Senior Divisional Engineer, Divisional office, Works Branch, Palakkad for widening and cutting from 491.840 Km to 508.730 Km of 'B' line and 492.020 Km to 509.130 Km of 'A' line Railway Track between Podanur and Walayar in Tamil Nadu area. Subsequently the tentative estimate for Rs. 20.57 Crores was forwarded to Principal Secretary to Government, Environment & Forests Department, Chennai in the reference 2nd cited by Principal

Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden for approval and sanction of funds from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

The estimate for an amount of Rs.20.57 Crores was forwarded for approval by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment & Forests Department, Chennai to the Inspector General of Forests, Project Elephant Division, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in the reference 3rd cited.

In response to the estimate for Rs.20.57 Crores, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden was requested by the Inspector General of Forests, Project Elephant Division, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in the reference 4th cited to consult with the experts of Wildlife Trust of India regarding the necessity of cutting and widening of 34Kms. If the proposed works are mandatory, the Inspector General of Forests, Project Elephant Division has informed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden to prioritize the works to be carried out for releasing the funds according to the budget provisions.

Based on the instructions given by the Inspector General of Forests, a meeting was held on 10.01.2011 at the chamber of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden. In the meeting, a committee was constituted comprising officials from the Forest Department, Railways and Wildlife Trust of India to inspect the accident prone sites between Podanur and Walayar.

The joint committee consisting of Forest, Railway and Wildlife Trust of India Officials inspected the railway tracks in the critical section between Podanur and Walayar stations in Tamil Nadu on 18th and 19th May, 2011 and recommended few mitigation measures.

Based on the mitigation measures recommended by the joint committee, the Chief Track Engineer was requested to prepare an abstract estimate and sent a revised proposal on 12.08.2013 by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden in the reference 6th cited.

However, the Divisional Railway Manager Palakkad has sent a proposal in the reference 5th cited with estimate for the three works to be carried out in Tamil Nadu area for an amount of Rs.29.40 Crores based on the meeting held between Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forests Department on 05.03.2010. The rough estimate for the three works to be carried out in Tamil Nadu is as follows:

Sl.No	Works to be carried out	Amount required (in Rs.)
1.	Rail Fencing and widening Cuttings and side-drains between Madukarai and Walayar stations (A&B lines)	25,08,30,268
2.	Under bridge on "B" line at Km.506/900 - 506A/900 between Ettimadai and Walayar Stations	2,15,43,337
3.	Under bridge on "B" line at Km.505A/400 - 500 between Ettimadai and Walayar Stations	2,16,51,199
Total		29,40,24,804

The Divisional Railway Manager Palakkad has also mentioned the details of the three works which would be executed by the railways on deposit term as agreed in the inter-ministerial meeting held on 05.03.2012. As a token of acceptance for execution of the work on deposit terms, the Divisional Railway Manager Palakkad has also requested to remit the sum of Rs.58,80,496 towards the centage charges (2% of the rough estimate) from the Tamil Nadu forest Department.

The estimate prepared is not as per mitigation measures recommended by the Joint Committee.

In the mean time, the General Manager has informed the Chief Secretary to instruct the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden to expedite the remittance of the amount of Rs. 29.4 Crores to Railways vide 7th reference cited.

The Divisional Railway Manager Palakkad has also informed in the reference 9th cited that the following bridge works have been sanctioned under LAW 1055 of 2015-16 & item 247 of PB 2015-16 on 30.12.2015.

Sl.No	Works to be carried out	Amount required (in Rs.)
1.	Under bridge on "B" line at Km.506/900 - 506A/900 between ETMD - WRA Stations (266 of PB 2011 & 91 of 12-13)	2,15,43,337
2.	Under bridge on "B" line at Km.505A/400 - 500 between ETMD - WRA Stations (LAW 994 of 2012-13)	2,16,51,199
Total		4,31,94,536

The Chief Track Engineer was requested to prepare abstract estimate based on the recommendations made by Joint Committee in the reference 6th cited. The revised abstract estimate is still awaited from the Chief Track Engineer.

This is for kind information.

Yours faithfully

S. Daisy Indira
31/5/16

for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Chief Wildlife Warden

Copy to the Chief Track Engineer, Southern Railway, Head Quarters office, Works Branch, Chennai - 600 003.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH NEW DELHI

Suomoto matter In re: News item published

in The Hindu, dated 29.05.2021 entitled

“ Night, early morning trains cause most

elephant deaths”

-- APPLICANT

VS

1.Union of India through its Secretary,

MOEF & CC and 3 others

-- RESPONDENTS

REPLY STATEMENT FILED BY THE
4 TH RESPONDENT / SOUTHERN RAILWAYS

K.MUTHAMIL RAJA
COUNSEL FOR 4TH RESPONDENT/
SOUTHERN RAILWAY