

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3701

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004

EXPANSION OF FOREST COVER AND PROMOTION OF ECO-TOURISM

Kumar Shri Shailendra;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to organise a Conference of the Forest ministers of the States in order to deliberate upon expansion of forests cover and promotion of eco-tourism;
- (b) if so, the details of subjects to be covered thereunder;
- (c) whether private capital investment in tourism sector is to be considered in the Conference;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the names of the States whose forest areas are to be included in the said plan alongwith the percentage of capital investment of private sector in this plan?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a), (b) & (c) A Conference of the Forest Ministers, Forest Secretaries, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States was organised by the Central Government on 05th and 06th August 2004 at New Delhi to deliberate upon important issues like increase in forest cover, recognition of tribal rights, simplification of felling and transit rules, public-private-partnership in afforestation of degraded forest lands, mitigation of man-animal conflict, etc.. However, the subject of eco-tourism was not included in the agenda.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.