

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2626
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
BAN ON SHAHTOOSH
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

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

(a) whether the entrepreneurs of Shahtoosh shawls have been representing to the Union Government to lift the ban on its production; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. People from Jammu & Kashmir have represented to lift the ban on shahtoosh trade imposed by the Government of India and the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Shahtoosh is obtained from Tibetan antelope locally known as Chiru. This species is listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as well as in the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 providing maximum protection to the species and prohibiting any trade in shahtoosh. The commercial international trade in shahtoosh is also prohibited under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which India is a signatory.

Further, in pursuance to the representation, the Ministry of Textiles had set up an Expert Group in 2004 to look into the various aspects of shahtoosh trade. The Expert Group, after examining various issues, in its report submitted in 2006, has concluded that since the international trade in shatoosh is banned in around 163 Countries under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and flora (CITES), lifting the ban by the Government of India would not be of any usefulness as this would not ipso facto make other countries lift the ban in their respective territories.