

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2422
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
FOREST MINISTERS CONFERENCE
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether State Forest Ministers Conference was held in New Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. A Conference of Forest Ministers of all States/Union Territories was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, on 15.02.2006 at New Delhi. The issues discussed in the Conference were:

1. Increase in forest and tree cover land availability, mobilization of finance, tariff on import of timber.
2. Multi Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) for inviting investment for the plantation on degraded land including degraded forest land from private sector.
3. Rationalization of felling and transit regulations to promote trees growing on private lands.
4. Forest tribal interface-conferring ownership of minor forest produce on forest dependent communities.
5. Lifting ban on the recruitment of front line staff.
6. Lateral movement of forest officers in other departments to overcome the stagnation.

(c) The Union Government had already requested the State/Union Territory Governments to lift ban on recruitment of front line staff, assigning ownership of minor forest produce to forest dependent communities, rationalization of felling and transit regulations for trees grown on private land and allocating more financial resources for afforestation and forest development in general.