

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1612  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
CONFERENCE OF FOREST MINISTERS OF STATES  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) the number of Conferences of the Forest Ministers of various States held during the last two years;
- (b) the details of issues discussed in the said Conferences;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the issues raised during these Conferences;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to adopt joint strategies to check cross border activities of poachers and those engaged in inter-State sale and export of animal products and plant species; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent such incidents?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) Ministry of Environment & Forests has not organized any Conference of Forest Ministers of various States during the last two years.
- (b) & (c) Does not arise.
- (d) & (e) Ministry of Environment & Forests has constituted the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in 2007, comprising of officials from Forests, Police and Customs to deal with the issues of wildlife crime including its international ramifications.

India is a signatory to many international conventions that deals with the protection of biodiversity and also regulating international trade in wildlife and its derivatives such as Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), World Heritage Convention, Convention on Migratory Species and Convention on Wetlands. In addition, India has signed a Protocol with Republic of China for taking up joint measures to crack down illegal activities of poaching of tigers, smuggling and selling of tiger bones and their derivatives. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed with Nepal to establish a Joint Task Force to check trafficking across the borders. Further, Inter State committees have also been constituted as and when required to check cross boarder activities of poachers.