

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1119

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

ILLEGAL TRADE OF TIGER AND LEOPARD BODY PARTS

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

- (a) whether an investigation carried out by an international NGO-Environment Investigation Agency (EIA) revealed that skins and other body parts of Indian wild tigers and leopards are being sold openly in China and at much higher prices than before;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has also conducted any investigation in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the effective measures taken by the Government to address the issue with greater seriousness?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) It is learnt that a foreign Non-Governmental Organisation, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), has investigated the illegal trade relating to Asian big cats in China during this year (2009).

(c), (d) & (e) Reports are received from various sources on the illegal wildlife trade linkages in various countries, and action is taken wherever necessary in respect of any connected crimes on Indian soil.

(f) Alerts have been issued to the concerned Police and Forest Departments to step up vigil in the tiger habitat and its surroundings including bus/railway stations. Joint operations have been undertaken by various agencies to pursue linkages. The issue of illegal trade has been taken up for inclusion in the agenda for the Foreign Office Consultations with Myanmar and Nepal. A Special Coordination Committee, comprising various intelligence, security and enforcement agencies, has been formed and checks are conducted at the exist points by various agencies to prevent trafficking of wildlife articles. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are at Annexure-I.