

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2169

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009

ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Saroj Smt. Sushila

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

- (a) whether experts from the tiger range countries have called for a collective political commitment to save the animals and to combat illegal trade in wildlife;
- (b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether experts from the tiger range countries have also urged the Government to stop infrastructure projects in core breeding areas;
- (d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to save the animals including tigers and to combat illegal trade in wildlife?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Union Government is fully Committed to save the wild tigers, their habitat and to combat illegal trade in wildlife.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. This recommendation is in consonance with the tiger conservation initiative of the Government.
- (e) The important steps to protect the wildlife including tiger and combat illegal trade in wildlife are as follows:
 - i. A network of Protected Areas including Tiger Reserves have been established in the country for conservation of wildlife and its habitats.
 - ii. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended time to time for better protection of wildlife.
 - iii. Stringent penalties are imposed on offenders for contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - iv. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the States/ Union Territories under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats and Project Elephant, for better conservation and management of wildlife and its habitat.
 - v. The National Tiger Conservation Authority for conservation of tigers & their habitat has been established.
 - vi. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
 - vii. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
 - viii. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
 - ix. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
 - x. India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking, which is an international forum working against wildlife crime.