

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3826
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
REHABILITATION OF SHAHTOOS SHAWLS TRADERS
Mufti Ms. Mehbooba

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

- (a) the details of Shahtoos Shawls produced during the last five years;
- (b) the reasons for banning Shahtoos production and trade;
- (c) whether any expert opinion has been sought on production of exquisite shahtoos shawls through fibre of a dead animal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any scheme/proposals to be rehabilitate the affected artisans and traders of such shawls ; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

- (a) Production and trade of shahtoosh shawls made from the hair of Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) is prohibited under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The same is also prohibited by the State of Jammu and Kashmir under the Jammu and Kashmir Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1978. Neither the Central Government nor the State Government of J&K have issued any manufacturing and trade license to any person during the last decade. The production and trade is illegal and clandestine and the Central Government does not maintain the inventory.
- (b) The reasons for banning production and trade of articles made from Tibetan Antelope are as follows:
 - (i) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has included Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) in Appendix-I thereby strictly regulating its trade in 166 member countries.
 - (ii) Tibetan Antelope, being highly endangered, is included in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and, therefore, hunting of animal and trade in its parts and products is prohibited.
 - (iii) The Tibetan Antelope is also included in Schedule-I of the Jammu and Kashmir Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1978 through its amendment in April, 2002 and, accordingly hunting of animal and trade in its parts and products is prohibited.
 - (iv) The export and import of articles made from shahtoosh wool are prohibited under the Export and Import Policy of Government of India.
- (c) & (d) Based on documentary evidences, the experts have opined that the wool used in manufacturing shahtoosh shawl is obtained after killing Tibetan Antelope. Forensic reports have also proved presence of Tibetan Antelope hair in shahtoosh shawls.
- (e) There is no specific scheme/proposal under the consideration of the Central Government for rehabilitating the affected artisans and traders.
- (f) Does not arise.