

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2189
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
CONFERENCE OF FOREST MINISTERS OF SOUTHERN STATES
Thomas Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether a Conference of Forest Ministers of Southern States was held recently;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions/ recommendations thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of Conference of Forest Ministers of Southern States held from 3-4 November, 2006 are as follows:

In order to secure due importance and recognition to the issues of forestry and wildlife, the Chief Ministers will be requested to urge the Honorable Prime Minister to convene a conference of the Chief Ministers and Forest Ministers of all States /Union Territories(UTs).

Protocols for joint actions like patrolling, joint raids, joint protection camps etc., will be developed and institutionalized.

Steps will be taken to strengthen communication network inter-alia by having common frequency wireless or through exchange of walkie-talkies between the bordering forest divisions.

Protocols for combined actions for managing the trans-border resources like biosphere reserves, national parks, tiger reserves etc., will be developed and institutionalized.

Urgent steps will be taken to survey, demarcate and erect boundary pillars on the interstate boundaries and maintain them.

Government of India will be requested to exempt Forest Departments from payment of license fee for use of wireless services including waving off existing arrears.

Each state will develop a separate intelligence wing for sharing intelligence on regular basis.

All the Forest Departments of southern states will whole heartedly adopt the Joint Forest Management approach.

(c) Ministry of Environment & Forests is regularly organizing conferences for consultations with States/UTs including Forest Ministers on various important issues of forest & wildlife sector which includes many of the common issues mentioned in para (b) above.