

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2274
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
BAN ON IVORY TRADE
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) whether any agreement was signed at the recent UN Wild Life talks held in June this year to impose ban on ivory trade;
- (b) the details and terms of the agreement and the stand taken by India during the talks; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the ivory trade?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir. No such agreement, to impose ban on ivory trade, has been signed at the recently held 14th Conference of Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held at The Hague, Netherlands during June 2007.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by Government of India to check ivory trade, inter alia, include:

1. Indian elephant is included in the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, there by according it the highest degree of protection.
2. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 was amended in 1991 to prohibit trade in ivory.
3. India is a signatory to CITES, which regulates trade in wildlife and its derivatives including ivory.
4. Import/export of ivory & ivory products is prohibited under EXPORT –IMPORT Policy.
5. Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme is being implemented since 2003, in ten Elephant Reserves in the country.
6. Wildlife Crime control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
7. Regular training courses are being organized in Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi for police, custom and forest officials on wildlife crime control.
8. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State /UT Forest Departments for the conservation and development of areas that include elephant habitats as well.