

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2327
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
CONVENTION ON ENDANGERED SPECIES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has attended the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held in the Hague recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the decisions taken during the meeting;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of decisions taken in the CITES;
- (d) the details of the recommendations made by the Government; and
- (e) the reaction of the member countries in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. India has participated in the 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. The subjects deliberated and decided during the conference, inter alia, include various administrative and financial matters, implementation of the Convention, review of resolutions and decisions, compliance and enforcement issues, trade control, exemptions and special trade provisions, species trade and conservation issues, amendment of the Appendices etc.

(c) The Government of India signed the Convention in July 1976, which was ratified in October 1976. The Director, Wildlife Preservation is designated as the CITES Management Authority for India. The enforcement of the convention and the provisions of CITES is carried out by the Regional Deputy Directors, Wildlife Preservation, who have been designated as the Assistant CITES Management Authority for India. Apart from these, Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India and Central Marine and Fisheries Research Institute have been designated as the CITES Scientific Authorities. The legislative and operational framework for implementing CITES is through the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Customs Act, 1962, Export-Import Policy and Quarantine regulations.

(d)&(e) During the deliberations of the 14th Conference of Parties of the CITES, India has intervened in all matters that have direct or indirect bearing on the country, in consonance with national policies and legislation to safe-guard our national interests. India informed the convention regarding various initiatives taken to strengthen wildlife conservation in India. This, inter alia, included the 2006 amendment to Wildlife (Protection) Act, creation of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. Further, India, China, Nepal and Russian Federation moved a joint resolution for conservation of Asian Big Cats that included tiger as well and was passed by the Conference of Parties by majority support.