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Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
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PROTECTION OF WILD TIGERS

17:29 IST
Rajya Sabha

Protection measures under Wildlife Crime Control Bureau have come into action for protection of wild tigers. India has banned trade in the body parts (and their derivatives) of tiger and other wild animals included in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, so requesting China to lift the ban on trade in tiger parts does not arise. The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 has been amended during 2006 to provide enabling provisions for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau, which have already been constituted for strengthening tiger conservation and protection of our wildlife. The penalties for offences relating to tiger reserves have been made more stringent.

Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau have been made. Under this the punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

Regarding Administrative steps, antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States have been strengthened. For deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel / home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication / wireless facilities have also been considered.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority constituted with effect from 4.09.2006, which will take care to strengthen tiger conservation by, interalia, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan etc., Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

At International level 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. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation. India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted with minor amendments during the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES at the Hague in last June.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Shri S.Regupathy in a written reply to question by Shri R. Shunmugasundaram:in the Rajya Sabha today.