

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *70
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2017

Wildlife Crimes

*70. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has collaborated with its neighbouring countries to combat wildlife crimes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of major initiatives taken by the Government under the aegis of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN);
- (c) the objectives of SAWEN and achievements made so far in this regard;
- (d) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred so far under SAWEN; and
- (e) whether any public participation has been envisaged under SAWEN and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*70 REGARDING “WILDLIFE CRIMES” BY SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA DUE FOR REPLY ON 07.02.2017

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is conducting bilateral meetings with the neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal for exchange of information and coordination in matters related to combating wildlife crimes. A list of meeting held during the last one year is at **Annexure**.
- (b) The Cabinet Committee has approved the proposal of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for adoption of the Statute of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) on 13th April 2016. However, the SAWEN is yet to be operationalized.
- (c) The objectives of the SAWEN are as below:
- i. To take initiative for bringing harmonization and standardization in laws and policies of member countries concerning conservation of fauna and flora;
 - ii. To document the trend of poaching and illegal trade and related threats to the natural biodiversity within and across countries in the region;
 - iii. To strengthen institutional responses to combat wildlife crime by promoting research and information sharing, training and capacity building, technical support, sharing experience and outreach; and
 - iv. To encourage members countries to prepared and implement their National Action Plans in curbing wildlife crime and to collaborate towards effective implementation.
- They are no visible achievements as SAWEN is yet to become operational. However, on endorsement of five out of eight member countries in 2016, the SAWEN has become a legitimate inter-governmental organization in South Asia, although secretariat has not been operational.
- (d) The Government of Nepal has committed support of USD 1,00,000 for SAWEN.
- (e) The statute of SAWEN contains the institutional arrangement for functioning of the network, its objectives and role of member countries and does not have specific provisions for public participations. However, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, which is the principal focal point of SAWEN in India, has organized various events with public participation to stop illegal traffic of wildlife and wildlife crimes in the country through awareness and education campaigns for various stakeholders.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *70 REGARDING “WILDLIFE CRIMES” BY SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA DUE FOR REPLY ON 07.02.2017****DETAILS OF MEETINGS HELD WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES BY WCCB DURING 2016**

SNo	Date	Place and Country	Purpose of Meeting
1.	28 th Feb to 05 th March 2016	Kathmandu, Nepal	INTERPOL Investigative Support Meeting between India and Nepal
2.	10 th -11 th April 2016	New Delhi, India	INTERPOL Investigative Support Meeting between India and Bangladesh
3.	27 th to 29 th July 2016	Singapore	Regional Investigative and Analytical Meeting on development of operation strategy for combating organized wildlife crime network(focusing on reptiles) by INTERPOL between India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
4.	25 th to 27 th Oct 2016	Dhaka, Bangladesh	3 rd Annual Meeting of SAWEN
5.	28 th to 30 th November 2016	Paro, Bhutan	Regional Investigative Support Meeting by INTERPOL between India, Bhutan, Bangladesh Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Singapore and Vietnam
6.	26 th -27 th July 2016	New Delhi, India	20 th National Level Meeting between Indian and Myanmar
7.	22 nd -23 rd November 2016	NayPyi Taw, Myanmar	Annual Wildlife Crime Nodal Point Meeting between India and Myanmar
8.	19 th -20 th December 2016	Mandale, Myanmar	22 nd Sectoral Meeting between India and Myanmar
