

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*125**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2016

**Initiatives under Sawen**

\*125. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

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

- (a) whether India has adopted the statute of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and if so, the details and objectives thereof;
- (b) the details of the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government under the aegis of SAWEN;
- (c) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government in order to control trans-boundary wildlife crime and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated for this project?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR  
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)**

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), AND (d) OF  
THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.\*125 REGARDING  
“INITIATIVES UNDER SAWEN” BY PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA  
FOR REPLY ON 26.07.2016.**

- (a) The Government of India has adopted the statute of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) on 13th April 2016.

SAWEN is a regional network of eight countries of South Asia, viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, established with a view to provide a forum for the development of regional programs through networking, sharing and effective dissemination of knowledge and information with respect to combating illegal trade in wildlife, its parts and products. It was formally launched during the Second Meeting of the South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade held from 29-30 January 2011 in Paro, Bhutan. The SAWEN Secretariat is located at Kathmandu in Nepal.

The statute contains the institutional arrangement for functioning of the network, its objectives and role of member countries. The statute has been adopted with the objective of strengthening the network and co-operation amongst the member countries in jointly combating wildlife crime and illegal trafficking in the region.

- (b) The important initiatives taken by the Government under the aegis of SAWEN include:
- i. Adoption of the statutes of SAWEN by the Government of India
  - ii. Enactment of stringent legislation for protection of wildlife and to deal with related crimes.
  - iii. Assistance is provided by the Wildlife Control Bureau to the border agencies in combating illegal wildlife trade.
  - iv. Designation of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau as the CITES Enforcement Agency in India.
- (c) India is one of the pioneer country amongst the SAWEN members in establishing a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and is implementing the following actions that, *inter-alia*, also meet the objectives of SAWEN:
- (a) collecting and collating intelligence related to organised wildlife crime activities and to disseminating the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action, so as to apprehend the criminals and to establish a centralised wildlife crime databank;
  - (b) coordination of actions by various officers, State Governments and authorities in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of this act, either directly or through regional and border units set up by the Bureau;
  - (c) implementation of obligations under the various international Conventions and protocols that are in force at present or which may be ratified or acceded to by India in future;
  - (d) assistance to concerned authorities in foreign countries and concerned international organizations to facilitate coordination and universal action for wildlife crime control;
  - (e) developing infrastructure and capacity building for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes;
  - (f) advising the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, and suggests changes required in relevant policy and loss from time to time.
- (d) An amount of Rs. 9.00 crore has been allocated to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau during the year 2016-17 for combating illegal trade of wildlife. Further, financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.