

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1829**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

**International ivory trade**

1829. SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) the stand of Government on legalizing the international ivory trade; and
- (b) the reasons for India's abstention from Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) vote on reopening the ivory trade?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Trade in ivory in India is prohibited under Section 49B of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (b) A proposal was submitted for consideration of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at CoP-19 by Zimbabwe to amend Annotation 2 pertaining to the African Elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe which provided exemption to conduct sale of ivory with certain conditions. The assessment made by CITES Secretariat recommended adoption of a part of the proposal. The proposal could not garner 2/3 majority and was therefore not adopted.

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