New Delhi (22 Sept 2017):- Sashastra Seema Bal organised a seminar on Role of Security Forces in combating wildlife crime on 22nd Sept. 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon’ble Union Minister of Science and technology, Earth Science, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India was the chief guest. The purpose of the seminar was to sensitize the Central Armed Police Forces and other stakeholders towards the magnitude of wildlife trade and highlight the necessity for inter agency co-operation. Smt. Tilotma Verma, ADG, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and other dignitaries attended the seminar.

Smt. Archana Ramasundaram, Director General, SSB made an appeal to to put forward their strong & candid view that how we can have co-ordination and formulate a long term strategy for protection of forest and wild animals.

She elaborated the efforts of SSB in this direction that last year in 2016 force had not only arrested 62 criminals in 60 cases but had also saved the lives of numbers Tokay- Lizard and sand-boa snakes, whereas in year 2017 in just 8 months 85 cases have been registered, 95 wild –animals smugglers have been arrested so far.

Apart from these, SSB have confiscated huge quantity of body parts of endangered spices, dear, Turtles, rabbits, pigeons and elephant tusks.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Central Minister of Science and technology, Earth Science, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, told that SSB
has been assigned a challenging task of guarding and managing open Indo-Nepal and indo Bhutan borders and SSB is discharging its duties very efficiently.

Union Minister also appreciated that comparing of the events was done in Hindi. He applauded the that the presence three women officers on the dais which is exactly 50%, of the dignitaries present on stage. He further applauded the role of SSB personnel for implementing the land of law.

The Union Minister appreciated also Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal for organising this workshop which is “First of its kind”. He apprised that this is the vision of Prime Minister that is New ideas and vision should flow from all directions. He told that all suggestion or action plan formulated during workshop will be implemented in true spirit. He empathised that these action plans be made with the use of technology, for which every help will be extended by Ministry of Science and Technology.

He appreciated SSB’s initiative of organising this seminar and told that today’s seminar organised by SSB with sister agencies, NGOs and CAPF’s dignitaries is a great step towards the protection and preservation of wildlife. By organising such type of programmes there will be increase in inter departmental co-ordination and crime against forests and wild animals will be checked.

He also stressed that success stories against the menace of wildlife crime should be published and mechanism be made that good work should reach at least to follows on social media.

Union Minister praised the efforts of DG, SSB Smt. Archana Ramasundaram for this sacred work and requested chief of wild life crime control bureau to organise a co-ordination meeting to increase co-operation and co-ordination and also organise joint workshop and training on regular basis and assured every possible help in this regard from his Ministry. He said that we should
save the planet and world towards sustainable growth for a better future. Caring for nature is naturally inbred in our DNA.

Action plan drawn on the basis of deliberation drawn from the eminent panelist and stakeholder who attended whole day seminar formulated as under:-

1. Increase awareness – within the force and among the people in our area of responsibility regarding the necessity to prevent wildlife crime and the scope and modus operandi of crime.

2. Powers under Wildlife Protection Act and Forest Act to be extended to border guarding forces who are in the forest area.

3. SSB to take help from WCCB in the following areas:-
   1. X Ray Manuals for detecting wildlife
   2. Model seizure detention and handing over memo
   3. WCCB reward format

4. Institutionalize the documentation and dissemination of success stories. Share with the Ministry of Environment and Forests

5. Coordination between all agencies to gather intelligence, prevent, detect and combat crime. To find out what passes from where and when. Create a database that can be shared among agencies.

6. Specialization of personnel is the need of the hour. Training of personnel in collaboration with WCCB and NGOs working in the field.

7. Stop valuation of wildlife products.

8. Target 3 March 2018 a conference involving all security forces.

9. Seizure guidelines, Forensic guidelines for packaging and sealing need to be given to all enforcement agencies.
10. We share a responsibility and a duty to STOP ECOCIDE.

Vote of thanks was given by Smt. Renuka Mishra, Inspector General (P&T) Sashastra Seema Bal.

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Public Relation Officer