

**Bill No. 132 of 2022**

THE ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION)  
AMENDMENT BILL, 2022

By

SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN, M.P.

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BILL

*further to amend the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Environment (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022.

Short title and  
commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Amendment of  
section 2.

**2.** In section 2 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), existing clause (a) shall be renumbered as clause (aa) and before the clause (aa) so as renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

29 of 1986

“(a) “eco sensitive zone or buffer zone” means the area within the demarcated boundary of protected forest, national park or wildlife sanctuary as the case may be.”.

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Amendment of  
section 3.

**3.** In section 3 of the principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following proviso shall be inserted:—

“Provided that the Central Government shall not declare any area beyond the protected area of a National Park or a wildlife sanctuary as an Eco sensitive zone or a Buffer zone.”.

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## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Order dated June 3, 2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, declaring all places within a kilometer around protected areas around national parks wildlife, and bird sanctuaries as eco-sensitive zones, has created dismay among the people who are living adjoining to protected forest areas from time immemorial. The said Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court will make millions of people homeless, render many hectares of land devoid of human habitation, agricultural use and development as well as affect the livelihood of the people living there.

One km. area around a protected area is likely to have low-income housing colonies, historical monuments and livelihood use areas like river floodplains, etc.

The most likely impacted arising out of the said Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court would be the State of Kerala as its 30 per cent area is forested and close to 48 per cent of the State's geographical area formed part of the Western Ghats and it is one of the most densely populated States in the country and land for development and habitation is at a premium there. Many of the farms abutting forests had existed for atleast seven decades and the areas had been habitations for people from time immemorial. Therefore, the said order will have a bearing effect on the people especially of Kerala as abovesaid.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to amend the Environment (Protection)) Act, 1986, with a view to effect that:—

(a) no area beyond the demarcated boundary of protected forest, that is national park or wildlife sanctuary, shall be considered as Eco-Sensitive Zone or Buffer Zone; and

(b) under no circumstances, area beyond the demarcated boundary of protected forest, that is national park or wildlife sanctuary, shall be declared as Eco-Sensitive Zone or Buffer Zone,

as doing so, will make millions of people homeless, render many hectares of land devoid of human habitation, agricultural use and development.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
5 July, 2022.

V.K. SREEKANDAN

# ANNEXURE

## EXTRACT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION) ACT, 1986

(29 of 1986)

|                                                                                  |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
|                                                                                  |        | *                                                                                                                                                                                                             | * | * | * | * |
| Definitions.                                                                     | 2.     | *                                                                                                                                                                                                             | * | * | * | * |
|                                                                                  |        | (a) “environment” includes water, air and land and the inter- relationship which exists among and between water, air and land, and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organism and property; |   |   |   |   |
|                                                                                  |        | *                                                                                                                                                                                                             | * | * | * | * |
| Power of Central Government to take measures to protect and improve environment. | 3. (2) | *                                                                                                                                                                                                             | * | * | * | * |
|                                                                                  |        | (xiv) such other matters as the Central Government deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of securing the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.                                       |   |   |   |   |
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*(Shri V.K. Sreekandan, M.P.)*