

Bill No. 252 of 2024

THE WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF COW BILL, 2024

By

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE, M.P.

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BILL

*to protect cows and their progeny, promote indigenous cow breeds and
establish a framework for their care and welfare and
for matters connected therewith.*

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

1. (1) This act may be called the Welfare and Protection of Cow Act, 2024.

Short title and
commencement.

(2) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise provides, —

Definitions.

(a) “Board” means the Cow Protection Board constituted under section 3;

(b) “cow” includes a bull, bullock, ox, heifer or calf;

(c) “gaushala” means a shelter home or building with facilities of fodder, water shed and medical aid for cows;

(d) “prescribed” means prescribed by the rules made under this Act; and

(e) “stray cow” means cow its progeny, bulls and bullocks left unattended or abandoned by the gau palak or farmers in public places.

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Constitution
of the Cow
Protection
Board.

3. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute a Board to be known as the Cow Protection Board.

(2) The Board shall consist of a Chairperson and such other members to be appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed.

(3) The headquarters of the Board shall be at New Delhi.

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(4) The Board shall have its offices in the capital of each State and Union territory.

(5) The Central Government shall appoint such number of officers and staff as may be deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the Board.

(6) The salary and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson, members and officers and staff of the Board shall be such as may be prescribed.

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Functions of the
board.

4. The Board shall —

(a) construct gaushalas in every village, tehsil and district for taking of care of stray cows;

(b) link the setting up of gaushalas with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, to ensure employment in the villages;

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(c) undertake such other steps as may be assigned to it by the Central Government for carrying out the purposes of this Act;

(d) conduct a survey once in every year for five years to assess the number of stray cows in the country;

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(e) establish a cow promotion centre (cow hostel) in every village for protection of stray cows with the facility of proper cleaning, fodder, water, breed improvement;

(f) make arrangements for the collection of cow urine, panchgavya products and installation of gobar gas plants;

(g) establish breed improvement centre for Tharparkar, Gir, Sahiwal and Gangatiri breed of cows;

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(h) encourage fodder for urea exchange system among the farmers; and

(i) establish cow sanctuaries through water conservation, plantation and pasture on the basis of public partnership by the Forest Department of the State Government concerned on the open and vacant land.

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Central
Government
to provide
requisite funds.

5. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide requisite funds to the State Governments for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Central
Government
to give
directions to
the State
Governments.

6. The Central Government may give such directions to the State Governments as may appear it to be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

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Annual Report.

7. (1) The Board shall prepare, in such form and at such time, as may be prescribed, its annual report, giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous financial year and submit a copy thereof to the Central Government.

(2) The Central Government shall cause the annual report to be laid before each House of Parliament.

8. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Power to
make rules.

- 5 (2) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as
may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total
period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive
sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the
successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or
10 both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only
in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such
modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously
done under that rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India holds a unique cultural, economic, and environmental relationship with cattle, especially cows, which have historically served as integral to rural livelihoods and agriculture. However, in recent years, the increase in stray cattle, particularly cows, has become a growing challenge, impacting rural economies, creating management issues for local authorities, and leading to a decline in indigenous cow breeds. Recognizing the need to protect cows and their progeny, promote indigenous breeds, and establish structured welfare measures, the Welfare and Protection of Cow Bill, 2024, aims to create a sustainable framework for their care and preservation.

The proposed bill seeks to establish the Indigenous Cow Protection Board, which will work to set up and maintain facilities such as gaushalas and cow promotion centres in villages across India. By linking these initiatives with employment schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, the bill aims to address local employment needs while fostering cow welfare and management at a grassroots level. The Board will also implement measures to improve indigenous breeds like Tharparkar, Gir, Sahiwal, and Gangatiri, contributing to biodiversity and reinforcing the agricultural ecosystem with breeds suited to India's climate.

Additionally, the bill promotes the use of cow-based products, including manure and cow urine, to support chemical-free agriculture, thereby encouraging sustainable farming practices that benefit both human and environmental health. To incentivize local engagement, the bill proposes monetary awards for Gram Panchayats that successfully manage stray cattle within their jurisdiction.

The provision for a dedicated fund, along with the power to issue directions to State Governments, underscores the Central Government's commitment to this cause. This bill thus represents a holistic approach to cow protection, indigenous breed promotion and rural welfare through sustainable practices, preserving a significant element of India's agrarian and cultural heritage.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
November 13, 2024

SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the constitution of Board for the protection of cow. Clause 4 provides that the Board shall set up gaushalas in every village, tehsil and district. Clause 5 provides that the Central Government shall provide requisite funds to the State Governments for carrying out purposes of this Act. The Bill, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is likely to involve a recurring expenditure of about rupees two hundred crore per annum.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees fifty crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 8 of the Bill empowers the appropriate Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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