

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 298 of 2019

THE WILDLIFE CORRIDORS BILL, 2019

By

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE, M.P.

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BILL

to constitute a Board to identify areas for developing exclusive wildlife corridors and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Wildlife Corridors Act, 2019.

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

Short title and
commencement.

Definition.	2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, "wildlife corridors" means a habitat linkage that joins two or more areas of wildlife habitat allowing movement of wildlife from one area to another.	
Constitution of the Wildlife Corridors Identification Board.	3. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Board to be known as the Wildlife Corridors Identification Board to identify areas in every State, which shall be developed as exclusive Wildlife Corridors.	5
	(2) The Board shall, while identifying areas for Wildlife Corridors, ensure that the areas to be developed as Wildlife Corridors are located at a distance of at least ten kilometers from areas inhabited by human beings.	
Central Government to develop wildlife corridors.	4. The Central Government shall, within one year of the identification of areas, take steps to develop such areas as exclusive wildlife corridors.	10
Prohibition on certain activities in Wildlife Corridors.	5. No person shall—	
	(i) use the wildlife corridors;	
	(ii) construct any building in or near the wildlife corridors;	
	(iii) cut any tree in the wildlife corridors;	15
	(iv) ride any vehicle within one kilometer on either side of the wildlife corridors;	
	(v) set fire or use any fire cracker in or near the wildlife corridors; and	
	(vi) use of any fire arms in or near the wildlife corridors.	
Strayed animals to be sent back to Wildlife Corridors.	6. If any wild animal during movement strays outside the wildlife corridors or enters human habitation, the Forest Officer concerned shall take steps to send back such animal to wildlife corridors.	20
Penalty.	7. Whoever violates the provisions of this Act shall be punished with fine which may extended upto rupees one lakh.	
Use of Wildlife Corridors for specific purposes.	8. Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the wildlife corridors may be used for—	
	(i) transportation of human beings in case of medical emergency;	25
	(ii) transportation of sick wild animals for medical treatment; and	
	(iii) putting off fire in forest areas.	
Act not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.	9. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law, for the time being in force.	
Power to make rules.	10. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.	30
	(2) Every rule made 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 both the 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.	35

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the recent years, there has been gross interference in the ecosystem both by wild animals and human beings. As a result, the ecosystem has not only been destroyed but also there has been a considerable loss to human life, property and economy of the country. Incidents of wild animals straying into human habitation and destroying the crops are not uncommon. Likewise human beings have extensively damaged the forests forcing the wild animals coming into conflict with human beings.

Therefore, in order to have a proper balance, it is proposed to set up designated corridors for wildlife.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
October 25, 2019

RAHUL SHEWALE

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for constitution of the Wildlife Identification Board to identify areas in every State for development of wildlife corridors. Clause 4 provides that the Central Government shall take steps to develop wildlife corridors. The Bill, therefore, if enacted would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees five hundred crore per annum would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India for maintenance of wildlife corridors.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore is likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 10 of the Bill empowers the Central 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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