

Bill No. 62 of 2025

THE REPTILE BITE (PREVENTION AND TREATMENT)
AND REPTILE CONSERVATION BILL, 2025

By

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY, M.P.

A

BILL

*to provide for the prevention of reptile bite incidents, improvement of treatment facilities
for victims of reptile bites, effective treatment, social security benefits and
conservation of reptile species and awareness towards reptiles and
for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

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

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

5 1. (1) This Act may be called as the Reptile Bite (Prevention and Treatment) and Reptile Conservation Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

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

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

Definitions.

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

(a) “appropriate Government” means in the case of a State, the Government of that State, and in all case, the Central Government;

(b) “reptile conservation” refers to the measures and strategies implemented to protect and preserve Reptile species, particularly those threatened by habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict and climate change; 5

(c) “climate change” refers to long-term changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and other environmental factors that affect ecosystems, including reptile behaviour and distribution;

(d) “disability pension” refers to the financial assistance provided to victims who suffer permanent disability due to a reptile bite; 10

(e) “first responder” refers to an individual, often from the community, trained to provide immediate first aid and basic life support to reptile bite victims;

(f) “health care facility” means any public or private hospital, clinic, or medical institution providing treatment to reptile bite victims. 15

(g) “high-risk area” means a geographical location identified as having a high incidence of reptile bites based on historical data and environmental conditions;

(h) “reptile bite” means any incident where a human is bitten by a reptile, whether venomous or non-venomous leading to injury or death; and

(i) “reptile” includes reptiles lizards and other cold-blooded reptiles that may pose a danger to human life through venomous bites; 20

(j) “reptile bite” means the penetration of skin by the fangs of a Reptile, leading to envenomation or injury;

(k) “antivenom” refers to the biological product used in the treatment of Envenomation caused by reptile bites which neutralizes the venom’s toxic effects; 25

(l) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

CHAPTER II

PREVENTION OF REPTILE BITES

Public
Awareness
Programmes on
Prevention of
Reptile bites.

3. (1) The Central Government shall, in coordination with State Governments, conduct regular public awareness campaigns on the prevention of reptile bites, especially in high-risk areas. 30

(2) The awareness campaigns shall focus on,—

(a) dissemination of information on identifying venomous reptiles, preventive measures and first aid techniques;

(b) use of mass media, including radio, television, social media, and mobile applications to reach diverse populations, especially in rural areas; 35

(c) development of educational materials including posters, pamphlets and videos in local languages to ensure accessibility to larger population; and

(d) the importance of reptile conservation, emphasizing the ecological role of reptiles in controlling pests and maintaining biodiversity. 40

(3) The appropriate Government may also launch special campaigns in response to seasonal increases in reptile bite incidents, linked to climate change-induced extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and rising temperatures, which alter reptile behaviour and increase human-reptile encounters.

Training and
Capacity
Building.

4. (1) The appropriate Government shall ensure that,— 45

(a) healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses and paramedics are trained in the management of reptile bites, including the administration of antivenom, emergency care and the management of complications arising therefore;

(b) specialized training programs are developed and conducted regularly, particularly in regions with a high incidence of reptile bites; 50

(c) community members, particularly in high-risk areas, are trained as First Responders which shall cover basic life support, the identification of Reptile species and the administration of first aid for reptile bites;

(d) training centres are established at the district level to facilitate ongoing capacity building of community volunteers and local health workers;

(e) schools in high-risk areas integrate reptile bite prevention and first aid training into their curriculum and students, teachers and staff are educated on identifying reptiles, avoiding reptile bites, and providing first aid;

(f) regular drills and workshops are conducted to ensure preparedness and reduce panic during reptile bite incidents;

(g) mobile applications and online platforms are developed and deployed to provide training on reptile bite management which shall include instructional videos, interactive modules and real-time support for First Responders and healthcare professionals; and

(h) telemedicine services are enhanced to provide expert guidance to healthcare facilities and First Responders in remote areas during reptile bite emergencies.

5. (1) The Central Government shall, in consultation with State Governments, develop a comprehensive reptile bite Risk Map identifying high-risk areas for reptile bites across the country.

Reptile bite risk mapping.

(2) The map under sub-section (1) shall be,—

(a) based on historical data, environmental conditions and emerging trends, including the effects of climate change on Reptile habitats and behaviour; and

(b) updated periodically to reflect changes in risk levels, especially in response to climate change-induced shifts in reptile populations and human-reptile interactions.

(3) The reptile bite Risk Map developed under sub-section (1) shall be made publicly accessible and used to guide public health interventions, resource allocation, and awareness campaigns.

(4) The appropriate Government shall establish a network of sentinel sites in high-risk areas to monitor reptile bite incidents, collect data on reptile populations, and assess the impact of environmental changes on reptile behaviour.

CHAPTER III

TREATMENT OF REPTILE BITE VICTIMS

6. The appropriate Government shall,—

Availability of Antivenom.

(a) ensure the availability of sufficient and high-quality antivenom in all healthcare facilities, especially in high-risk areas;

(b) regulate the production and distribution of antivenom to prevent shortages and ensure equitable access across the country; and

(c) establish regional antivenom production units to reduce dependency on centralized manufacturing and ensure quicker distribution to remote areas.

7. (1) The appropriate Government shall ensure that every Healthcare Facility under its jurisdiction report cases of reptile bites to a central database within 24 hours of admission, detailing the nature of the bite, treatment provided, and outcome.

Reporting of Loss of reptile bites.

(2) The database under sub-section (1) shall be accessible to relevant authorities for monitoring and policy-making purposes in such manner as may be prescribed.

8. (1) The appropriate Government shall ensure that,—

Social security benefits to reptile bite victims.

(a) victims of reptile bites are entitled to free treatment at any Healthcare Facility which shall include the administration of antivenom, emergency care, and any subsequent medical treatment as may be required;

(b) reptile bite victims are covered under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and other relevant National and State Health Insurance Schemes and the treatment of reptile bites is included in the list of covered medical

procedures under these schemes;

(c) the expense incurred by the private Healthcare Facilities that provide free treatment to reptile bite victims under this Act are reimbursed;

(d) reptile bite treatment are included in their respective health schemes to ensure that such treatments are provided free of cost or under subsidized rates to victims who may not be covered under the national schemes; 5

(e) reptile bite victims are being included under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for accidental death and disability cover of rupees two lakh at a nominal premium; and

(f) reptile bite victims are enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme, providing a minimum assured pension of rupees three thousand per month after attaining the age of sixty years. 10

CHAPTER IV

REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION

Establishment
of rehabilitation
centre.

9. (1) The appropriate Government shall,— 15

(a) establish specialized rehabilitation centres in high-risk areas to provide comprehensive care for reptile bite victims;

(b) provide physical rehabilitation including physiotherapy, prosthetics, and other necessary medical interventions for victims suffering from long-term disabilities in the rehabilitation centre; 20

(c) provide psychological support including Counselling services for victims and their families to address trauma, anxiety and other mental health issues arising from reptile bite incidents;

(d) reptile bite victims are provided assistance in reintegrating victims into society, including support for education and employment where needed; 25

(e) formulate programmes aimed at equipping victims with skills to secure alternative livelihoods, especially for those who have lost their ability to perform their previous jobs due to reptile bite related disabilities; and

(f) made special provisions for the rehabilitation of vulnerable groups, including women, children and the elderly. 30

Compensation
to victims and
families.

10. The appropriate Government shall,—

(a) In the event of a death caused by a reptile bite, provide the family of the deceased a payment of compensation which shall not be less than rupees five lakh to be provided within a reasonable time frame to support the family in their time of need; 35

(b) provide to the victim who suffer permanent disability due to a reptile bite,—

(i) appropriate financial assistance in the form of disability pension to ensure the victim's well-being and support in maintaining his quality of life during his life; and 40

(ii) in addition to the disability pension under sub-clause (i), a one-time compensation amount of not less than rupees three lakh to the victims to meet immediate financial needs.

Constitution
of special fund
for payment of
compensation to
reptile bite victims.

11. (1) The appropriate Government shall constitute a Special Fund for the purpose of disbursement of compensation payable to Reptile bite victims and their families under section 10. 45

(2) The special Fund shall be credited such amount of funds by the Central Government and State Government in such proportion as may be prescribed.

Appropriate
Government to
provide support
in case of loss of
employment due to
reptile bite.

12. In cases where victim is unable to return to his previous employment due to disability, provide continuous support, including vocational training, micro-finance opportunities and job placement assistance to help them secure alternative livelihoods in such manner as may be prescribed. 50

13. (1) The appropriate Government shall identify communities disproportionately affected by Reptile bites, especially those residing in high-risk areas and implement targeted schemes to improve their socio-economic conditions.

Schemes for welfare of Reptile bites victims.

(2) The schemes under sub-section (1), shall include,—

(a) establishing local health centres equipped to handle reptile bite cases, providing regular medical check-ups and ensuring access to necessary treatments;

(b) special programmes to educate communities on reptile bite prevention, safe agricultural practices and wildlife conservation; and

(c) providing financial support and livelihood opportunities to reduce the economic impact of reptile bite incidents on vulnerable communities.

CHAPTER V

RESEARCH, CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

14. (1) The appropriate Government,—

(a) promote and provide financial assistance for research initiatives focused on developing more effective antivenoms including research into polyvalent antivenoms that may neutralize the venom of multiple reptile species;

Research on conservation of Reptiles.

(b) conducting clinical trials and studies to refine and standardize treatment protocols for reptile bite management;

(c) undertake research study on understanding reptile behaviour particularly in relation to climate change and environmental shifts affecting reptile distribution, activity patterns and human-Reptile interactions;

(d) conduct research on the conservation of reptile species, understanding their ecological role, and developing strategies to mitigate human-reptile conflict while preserving biodiversity; and

(e) encourage collaborative research with international institutions and local universities to foster innovation and knowledge exchange.

15. (1) The appropriate Government shall maintain a centralized, publicly accessible database to collect data on the location, frequency, and severity of reptile bites, along with treatment outcomes.

Data collection and Monitoring.

(2) The database under sub-section (1),—

(a) track the distribution and behaviour of reptile species, particularly in relation to climate change;

(b) monitor the availability of anti-venom, trained personnel, and necessary equipment in healthcare facilities across the country;

(c) include information on the population of reptile species in the country, monitoring fluctuations and ensuring that conservation measures are responsive to any declines; and

(d) be updated in real-time and used to guide policy decisions, resource allocation, and public health interventions.

(3) While collecting the database, the appropriate Government shall,—

(a) identify the threats on the natural habitats of reptiles including habitat destruction or encroachment with a view to implement protective measures to maintain and restore their environments.

(b) give special attention to threatened or endangered reptile species, ensuring that their populations are protected through habitat preservation efforts and regulatory measures.

(4) The appropriate Government shall propose an Annual report on reptile bite incidents, reptile populations, habitat changes, and government responses which shall be published and disseminated to the public, in such manner as may be prescribed.

Reptile
Conservation
and Habitat
Protection.

16. (1) The appropriate Government shall formulate and implement programmes aimed at conserving reptile species and protecting their natural habitats.

(2) The programmes under sub-section (1) shall include,—

(a) initiatives to restore and preserve critical reptile habitats, particularly in areas where habitat destruction is leading to increased human-reptile conflicts. 5

(b) strengthening the legal framework to protect threatened Reptile species from poaching, habitat destruction, and other forms of harm.

(c) educating and involving local communities in conservation efforts, promoting coexistence, and reducing the likelihood of retaliatory killings of reptiles.

(d) developing strategies to help reptile populations adapt to changing environmental conditions caused by climate change, thereby reducing the risk of increased human-reptile encounters. 10

(3) The appropriate Government shall collaborate with environmental Non- Government Organisations, wildlife experts, international conservation bodies to implement the programmes formulated under sub-section (1) effectively. 15

Reptile
Management
in Medical
Education.

17. (1) The Central Government shall ensure that Reptile bite Management shall be introduced as a mandatory subject in the curriculum of all medical colleges and nursing schools across the country.

(2) The course on reptile management under sub-section (1) shall include,—

(a) training on the recognition of venomous and non-venomous reptiles and the implications for treatment; 20

(b) the administration of anti venom, managing complications and post-treatment care;

(c) understanding the epidemiology of reptile bites, the socio-economic impact on affected communities and strategies for prevention; and 25

(d) educating future healthcare professionals on the impact of climate change on reptile behaviour and the increasing incidence of reptile bites in new areas.

(3) The Central Government shall made available the Continuing Medical Education (CME) programmes on Reptile bite Management for practicing healthcare professionals to keep them updated on the latest developments and best practices. 30

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Penalties.

18. Any person found guilty of not complying with the provisions of this Act shall be liable to a fine which shall not less than rupees fifty thousand and in the case of repeated offenses, licence of the healthcare facility may be cancelled. 35

Central
Government to
provide funds.

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

Act not in
derogation of
other laws.

20. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of the provisions in any other law, for the time being in force. 40

Power of
Central
Government to
make rules.

21. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the qualifications, experience, functions, powers, and terms and conditions of service of the officers and other employees of the Boards under sub-section (3) and (4) of section 3; 45

(b) the time and place of the meetings of the Committees and the procedure to be followed at such meetings under sub-section (1) of section 4 and the expenditure incurred on the meetings of the Boards under sub-section (3) of section 4; 50

(c) any other matter which is to be or may be, prescribed or in respect of which provision is to be made by the Central Government by rules.

5 (3) 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 the Houses agree in making any modification in the rule
or regulation or both Houses agree that the rule or regulation should not be made, the rule
or regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as
10 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 or regulation.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Reptile bite related deaths in India, particularly in rural regions, have emerged as a significant public health concern, necessitating a robust legislative framework. This Bill not only aims to reduce the incidence of such fatalities by ensuring the availability of anti-venom, providing free and timely medical treatment, and supporting the rehabilitation of victims and their families but also includes provisions for the conservation and protection of reptiles. Recognizing the ecological importance of reptiles in maintaining the balance of ecosystems, the Bill seeks to foster co-existence through awareness campaigns and conservation efforts, ensuring that public health measures do not compromise the survival of reptile species.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 50,000 people die each year in India due to reptile bites. These deaths predominantly affect rural areas, where poor farmers and field workers face heightened risks. Reptile bite incidents are medical emergencies requiring immediate intervention to prevent fatalities and long-term disabilities. However, accessibility to timely and effective treatment, such as the provision of anti-venom, remains a challenge, especially in remote and underserved communities. This Bill aims to address these challenges by improving healthcare access and support for vulnerable populations.

Climate change has further intensified the situation, leading to an increase in human-reptile encounters. Rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, and changes in land use have contributed to more frequent reptile bite incidents, placing communities at even greater risk. The Bill recognizes the need for a comprehensive approach to manage these climate-induced challenges and to protect vulnerable groups by ensuring adequate healthcare and emergency response mechanisms.

The Bill also seeks to establish mechanisms for rehabilitation and compensation for victims, providing free medical treatment and including reptile bite care under social security schemes like Ayushman Bharat. It further outlines support for long-term injury victims, such as disability pensions, financial aid, and vocational training programs. Public awareness campaigns are integral to the Bill, aiming to educate communities about prevention strategies, high-risk area mapping, and methods to promote coexistence with reptiles. In addition, the Bill introduces penalties for non-compliance with mandated treatment protocols and reporting requirements, ensuring accountability and proper care for reptile bite victims.

A critical aspect of this Bill is the conservation of reptiles, recognizing their vital ecological role in maintaining ecosystem balance by controlling rodent populations and supporting biodiversity. In light of climate change, it is essential to protect these species and promote awareness of their significance, fostering a harmonious relationship between humans and reptiles. By incorporating reptile protection measures, the Bill aims to ensure both public safety and ecological stability.

To ensure the effectiveness of the proposed measures, the Bill grants the Government the authority to frame and amend regulations as needed to respond to evolving challenges in reptile bite prevention, treatment, and conservation. This legislative framework provides a multi-dimensional approach, addressing public health and ecological concerns while promoting sustainable and effective solutions to the growing challenges posed by climate change.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
November 7, 2024

RAJIV PRATAP RUDY

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 9 of the Bill provides for the establishment of rehabilitation centres. Clause 10 provides for compensation to victims and families in the event of a Death caused by reptile bite. Clause 11 provides for the Constitution of special fund for payment of compensation to reptile bite victims. Clause 12 provides that the appropriate Government shall provide support in case of loss of employment due to reptile bite. Clause 19 provides for the Central Government to provide adequate fund. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees two crore and fourty thousand per annum would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees sixty lakh is also likely to be incurred for survey.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 21 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules regarding the qualifications, experience, functions, powers, and terms and conditions of service of the officers and other employees of the Boards, the time and place of the meetings of the Boards and the procedure to be followed at such meetings, etc. As the matters in respect of which rules may be made by the Central Government are matters of procedure and administrative details only, the delegation of legislative power is, therefore, of a normal character.

LOK SABHA

A

BILL

to provide for the prevention of reptile bite incidents, improvement of treatment facilities
for reptiles victims, effective treatment, social security benefits and conservation
of reptile species and awareness towards reptiles and for matters
connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, M.P.)