

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 56**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

**Effect of Wildlife (Protection) Amendment**

56. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022 was aimed at protecting the rules abiding citizens/entrepreneurs, indicted for minor non-compliance, from undue harassment and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether this step may yield a reduction in the burden of the judiciary; and
- (c) whether the existing provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA) were amended to decriminalize them to eliminate the threat of imprisonment for minor violations as per the suggestions received by Government, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a), (b) and (c) The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 and by the Rajya Sabha on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The Bill provides for inclusion of provisions of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES); rationalization of Schedules; enhancement of penalties, etc. No assessment on impact of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022 on the judiciary has been made by the Ministry.

The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022 does not envisage decriminalization of contravention of any provisions of the Act.

\*\*\*