

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1891
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022

Amendment in EPA

1891. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR *ALIAS* VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) whether it is true that wildlife amendments were to save law abiding citizens/entrepreneurs from undue harassment in case of minor non-compliances, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that the move may decrease the burden of the judiciary; and
- (c) whether it is also true that the amendments were made as per the Government received suggestions to decriminalise existing provisions of Environment Protection Act (EPA) to weed out fear of imprisonment for simple violations and 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 2nd August 2022 and by the Rajya Sabha on 8th 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.
