है। भारत 1977 के दशक से उसका सिम्बल है। साइटस में इस बात का प्रावधान किया गया था कि दुनिया के सभी देशों को अपने वाइल्ड लाइफ्स एक्ट में एक ऐसा मैकिनज्र बनाना चाहिए जो पूरे तरीक़े से CITES के लीगल मैकिनज्र के अनुकूल हो। हमारे देश में वाइल्ड लाइफ्स क्राइम ब्यूरो और कस्टम्स के द्वारा इसका सामान्य किया जाता है। लेकिन अंतरराष्ट्रीय संधि के हिसाब से इस एक के अंतर्गत एक विशेष चेंबर को जोड़ा है और CITES के प्रावधानों को पूरे तरीक़े से अंतरराष्ट्रीय संधि के नियमों के अनुकूल बनाते हुए बिल में सम्मिलित किया है। इसके साथ ही साथ, हम यह जानते हैं कि आज के समय में जो विषय रूप से ऐसी स्पीसिज जिन्हें हमारे पर्यावरण और जलवायु के अनुकूल नहीं है, चाहे कुर्सी का क्षेत्र हो, फिशरीज का क्षेत्र हो या एनिमल हस्तिएंडरी का क्षेत्र हो।

(1405/SK/RK)

डिग्रेडेशन ऑफ़ ईको सिस्टम सर्विस्ज का विश्वास यो रेस्ट्रैक्ट के संबंध में रिस्क का विषय हो, इस संबंध में हम प्रकार के इन्फिसिव एलाइफ ग्रीनेज है, हम इस बिल के अंदर उनके रोकथाम का प्रावधान लेकर आए हैं। महोदय, देश में बहुत लोगों पर नेशनल सेंचुरी और नेशनल पार्क विकसित किए जाते हैं। इस सरकार की मान्यता और प्रतिबद्धता है और सरकार मान्यता प्राधिक मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में गरीब कल्याण के कार्यों के लिए संरक्षित है। हमने इसलिए इस बार बिल में प्रावधान किया है कि जनजातीय समाज के लोग, जो परिपरागत रूप से कोई ऐसे रहते हैं, अंतर नेशनल पार्क के लिए जगह को खोलकर कहा जाता है, जब तक उनका विस्थापन पूर्ण रूप से नहीं होता है, तब उनके राइट्स, विशेष रूप से पीने का पानी, पशुओं के चारागाह पूरे तरीके से सुरक्षित रहेंगे ताकि परिपरागत समाज के लोगों को किसी प्रकार से कोई तकलीफ न हो आए।
महोदय, हम जानते हैं कि देश की वन सम्पदा का संरक्षण और देश के कन्य जन्तुओं के संरक्षण में स्थानीय समाज की बड़ी भूमिका रही है, इसलिए स्थानीय लोगों की मैनेजमेंट कमेटी को भी यह बिल पूरे तरीके से अपने संशोधनों के साथ स्वीकार करता है। हमें बहुत जगह पर बार-बार वाइल्ड लाइफ के कन्फिक्ट देखने में आते हैं। इस बिल के माध्यम से हमने वाइल्ड एनिमल्स की देखरेख और उनका सर्वेक्षण करने का प्रोटिजन बनाया है। इसके साथ ही साथ हमारे देश की सांस्कृतिक, सामाजिक परंपराओं में हाथी का विशेष महत्व रहा है। इनके ट्रांसफर का अच्छे तरीके से प्रावधान हो, इसे बिल में सम्मिलित किया है।

महोदय, मैं चाहता हूँ कि सदन में जब इस बिल पर चर्चा हो तो देश की वन्य जीव जन्तुओं की सम्पदा के संरक्षण के लिए अच्छे साकारात्मक सुझाव आएं। मैं चर्चा के लिए इस बिल को प्रस्तुत करता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि एक सार्थक बहस द्वारा संशोधन भारत सरकार लेकर आई है, उन संशोधनों को सदन की स्वीकृति मिले। धन्यवाद।

(इति)

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY): Motion moved:

“That the Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, be taken into consideration.”
SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NOWGONG): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I rise to speak on the amendments of the Bill, I would like to put on record my appreciation to the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha, because this is one of the rare Bills that has been referred to the Standing Committee. Consultation is a very important part of democracy. In the UPA regime, about 71 per cent Bills were referred to the Standing Committees for discussion. But unfortunately, that figure has now come down to 11 per cent. This Bill is one of the rare 11 per cent Bills that were referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee also has very decisively recommended a lot of amendments. It is up to the House to accept those amendments. Having said that, Sir, we very firmly remember one of our former Prime Ministers who really ushered in the era of conservation of nature in this country. I would like to remind the House that in 1966, when Shrimati Indira Gandhi took over as the Prime Minister, she immediately expressed her concern about the conservation of nature, because immediately after Independence a number of prime forests were destroyed and cleared for settling the refugees of partition. Similarly, natural habitats and prime forests, were recklessly destroyed for making ways for mines, dams, roads, and real estate. That was very worrisome. Wild animals were killed by anybody having a gun. It was like we were following the Western culture here. Trade in tiger skin was rampant. So much so, even in the Chanakya market of Delhi, tiger skins were readily available for purchase. All these matters made her more worried. Eventually, India hosted the first IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Conference in 1969. IUCN expressed its concern over the plight of tigers, elephants, etc.

(1410/PS/MK)

That was the time when Mrs. Indira Gandhi very famously said it in the conference and I quote:

“We do need foreign exchange but not at the cost of life and liberty of some of the most beautiful inhabitants of this continent.”

That got the ball rolling and eventually, a taskforce was constituted and that paved the way for the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. Maybe, today, this Act is a little imperfect in many ways but is essentially a very progressive law because this is the law that actually banned hunting of wild animals and has created and protected wild life habitats.
It has allowed our wild treasures to grow, survive, and flourish. This is the very Act that created parks, sanctuaries, and reserves. This is the Act that set up the National Board for Wild Life. Subsequently, Project Tiger and Project Elephant were launched and several rules with regard to different wild life protected areas were issued. So, this is a very important law and I am very happy that these particular amendments are brought in. Some of the amendments are, of course, very necessary. The prominent among them is the prohibition of renewal of arms licences within a ten-kilometre radius. That is very much needed. It also seeks to implement CITES. That is very important. I think, it is a welcome step. It also includes the surrender of wild animals and products, regulation of invasive plants, and reorganization of Schedules. Those are very important things.

But having said all these things, I would like to point out the fallacies and anomalies even in CITES. We all know that CITES actually regulates all the rules among the member countries with regard to about 38,700 species of wild animals and plants. But there are also fallacies. I would like to point out that in Assam we have a plant called ‘Agarwood’. The botanical name of this plant is ‘Aquilaria Malaccensis’. Due to the climatic condition and due to the very conducive soil condition, the Assam ‘Agarwood’ has got a huge brand equity world over especially in the Arab and the Middle East countries. But CITES has included Assam Agarwood in the list. You will be surprised to know that Agarwood is growing abundantly in the homestead lands. It is not available in the reserve forests and wild life areas. But Assam Agarwood is grown at the backyard of the houses and the homestead lands. It is grown all over the place. But the people and the State are not getting the legitimate and legal remuneration because of that. You will be surprised to know that Assam Agarwood is being smuggled out hoodwinking the system because of the CITES embargo. So, it is very important that these kinds of fallacies should be removed from CITES. I would like to request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and arrange to remove the Assam Agarwood from the list of CITES.

Similarly, there are other things like regulation of invasive species, which is very important because we have to protect the habitats. Take the example of Kaziranga National Park. This National Park is known world over. The rhinoceros and other herbivorous animals are dependent on the grasslands.
But the tea industry, near Kaziranga National Park, at one point of time had introduced the ‘Mimosa’ plant because Mimosa has got antibacterial qualities. But Mimosa is very prolific and Mimosa’s invasion is almost on the verge of killing the grasslands. That is why, the regulation of invasive plants is very important. If necessary, those invasive plants or weeds should be culled, eradicated, and removed to protect our wild life.

We are coming to a very sensitive subject called elephants. The Standing Committee has also asked for a very careful balance between the traditions of our society and conservation.

(1415/SMN/SJN)

Sir, there are about sixteen States in our country which actually have habitat of elephants and as per the Wildlife Institute of India data, we have probably 28000-31000 elephants. But, latest data is not available. That data is as old as 2012. I also know that your Ministry asked different State Governments to give the data because we have 30 elephant reserves. Unfortunately, that information is not available. So, this information should be updated. We have to know the exact number of elephants that we have in our country.

Sir, having said about tradition and all, elephants actually grow in a particular habitat. Elephants do not really grow in non-family environment. But we have record that about 320 elephants were taken out of Assam with permission on record but we do not know how many elephants have been taken out from Assam. We are told these elephants are transported to various places like some temples in South India and a large number of elephants have been taken to Jamnagar by a prominent industrialist of India.

What I am basically trying to say is that these elephants grow in a particular environment. A scientific study has to be done to see whether elephants can survive in a non-family atmosphere and that is very important. It is because we have human-elephant conflict which is on the rise day by day. A large number of human, cattle, and crop-loss has been recorded. It is because of the shrinkage of the natural habitat of the elephants. It is because of the biotic pressure and it is because of the fragmentation of the reserve forest and shrinkage. But elephant habitat has to be protected and that is where traditional knowledge also has to be combined.
Sir, you would be very surprised to know that the domesticated elephant is a part of our tradition and that tradition was very good and that elephant command travelled to Thailand, Cambodia and South East Asia. In the 18th century, an elephant treatise was compiled in Assam.

It is called *Hasti Vidyarnava* by Shri Sukumar Barkaith in the 18th century and it precisely gives how elephants should be preserved, how elephants’ habitat should be protected but in that entire thing, we also have two domesticated elephants like *Mela Shikhar* and *Khedda Shikhar*. *Shikhar* is a misnomer. *Shikhar* does not mean that elephant hunting takes place but it actually creates a data. It also tries to minimise the human-elephant conflict but that has been eradicated, that has been uplifted. So, that is why, it is very important that traditional knowledge should be combined to have present day managerial practices of wildlife.

Thank you, Sir.

(ends)
1418 hours

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH (GONDA): Sir, I would like to express my gratitude for allowing me to speak in support of this very important Bill.

Sir, it is a matter of grave concern that environment has been deteriorating at a very alarming rate and we have been experiencing in the past decades a spate of natural disasters which are due to the climate change that is being caused.

Sir, it is also a matter of pride for us that under the effective leadership of our Prime Minister, our Government has undertaken a wide range of mitigation and adaptation measures and India is now leading the world in this fight to save the environment.

Sir, we are also learning that along with the reduction of greenhouses and other pollutants, it is the conservation of our precious wildlife of flora and fauna and the health of our ecosystem which play a vital role in the preservation of environment. Sir, it is a fact that nature does not have any political boundaries. महोदय, जब ब्राजील में फॉरेस्ट जलाए जाते हैं, तो उसका इफेक्ट हमारे साउथ-वेस्ट मानसून पर पड़ता है। So, it is the collective responsibility of all Governments to take preventive measures for the protection of the ecosystem. It is the existing interdependence of the species for the mutual survival and the continuity of the chain which is vital for our environment and it is important to maintain these linkages. There are various examples of how the destruction of just one species has disturbed the ecological balance of the entire region.

(1420/SNB/YSH)

Sir, it has taken millions and millions of years for nature to achieve this perfect balance. But sad to say, our humankind, our human history, which is only two hundred thousand to three hundred thousand years old, has emerged as the prime disrupter of this balance. We are paying a very heavy price for it. But it is also a matter of great concern that हम लोगों के जो प्यूचर जनरेशन होंगे, उनको कितनी हैवी प्राइस पे करनी होगी, इसको हम अभी क्वांटीफाइ नहीं कर सकते हैं। It runs into billions and billions of dollars. Nobody knows what will happen in the future.

It is with a great deal of foresight that our Parliament had passed the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 which basically provides the legal framework for the protection of various species of wild life, wild animals and management of the habitat and regulation and control of trade of wild life and wild life products.
The Forty-second Constitutional Amendment, 1976 further shifted the subject of protection of wildlife and birds from the State List to the Seventh Schedule in the Concurrent List. Today one of the major threats to wild life is illegal trade about which the former speaker mentioned. This illegal trade is mainly due to many superstitious beliefs. हमारे यहां के टाइगर्स की हड्डिया आज चाइना और नेपाल में बेची जाती हैं। आज हमारे हिमालयन बेयर का पिट्ठुटरी ग्लेन्ड बहुत डिमांड में है। मस्क डीयर के मस्क ग्लेन्ड्स डिमांड में हैं। There are many other forest products. In the greater Himalayan region, there are a variety of mushrooms which are smuggled out of the country illegally.

The CITES – the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is in force since 1975 and it actually regulates the trade in over 38700 species of wild animals and plants. One of the requirements of this Convention is this that all member-countries take appropriate measures to enforce its provisions and prohibit trade in violation of its provisions. We became a party to this Convention in 1976 and as our hon. Minister informed us India has been implementing the various provisions of CITES through the Customs Act of 1962, the Foreign Trade Act, The EXIM policy and the Wild Life Protection Act of 1972. But, however, the Standing Committee of CITES found certain gaps in the implementation of these provisions. One of the serious repercussions of this is that a recommendation was passed with respect to India to prohibit trade in the CITES listed species.

Sir, India has considerable exports of such species, such as Agarwood, Red Sanders, medicinal and aromatic plants, wood and other wood products. This recommendation would have an adverse impact on our exports and also on the livelihood of lakhs of people who are engaged in such agro-forestry and similar activities. Of course, a majority of people engaged in such activities are generally the tribal people, the village communities which also constitute a large percentage of economically and socially marginalised sections of our population. It was the main concern of our Government which has prompted this Wild Life Protection Bill of 2021. This proposes to amend the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 so as to incorporate these necessary changes for effective implementation of the CITES provision.
With this, there are many other relevant amendments that also have been added. The first is the amendment to the Preamble. Today the question of protection of wild life has acquired a much wider spectrum. Apart from hunting and killing, we also have to focus on protecting the habitats, ensuring of natural fodder, management of forest, and curbing of illegal trade and wildlife. These broader actions are required today to ensure the ecological and environmental security of our country. Therefore, the Preamble of the Act is proposed to be amended and the words, `protection of wild animals, birds and plants' have been substituted by the words `conservation, protection, and management and Protection of wild life'.

Another important proposal in this amendment is that till now the endangered and the protected species which are placed in the Sixth Schedule was not very clear in the principal Act. The list of protected and endangered species now have been placed in four Schedules -- Schedules I and II are for the protected and endangered animal species; Schedule III includes the specified plants; and Schedule IV lists all the species specified by the CITES. The Government has also added a new Chapter VB in the Act for the regulation of trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora. As per this proposal, an Additional Director General of Forest will be appointed as the management authority who will be responsible for the issuance of all permits and certificates for trade in the Scheduled specimen.

(1425/RU/SPS)

Sir, it is proposed that the Central Government shall designate one or more institutes as scientific authority engaged in research on species. These bodies with experts in various species shall advise the management authority in matters referred to it and also help to monitor the export permits granted for species listed in Appendix-II of Schedule IV.

Today, when we talk about invasive species, there are two prime examples which I want to place before the House. One is the water hyacinth. This was a plant brought into India in the 18th century from South America by Lady Hastings. Its purple flowers are beautiful and that was the reason that plant was introduced in India. आज हमारी जितनी भी ज्यादातर लेक्स हैं, जो छोटी रिकर्स हैं, they are being choked by his plant and it is destroying our fresh water eco-system.
Similarly, the lantana weed which was also brought in by the British is overrunning all our forests and almost 40 per cent of our tiger reserves are being covered by this weed. It is destroying the natural fodder and also affecting agriculture in the Deccan area. आज हमारी डियर स्पीशीज हैं और भी हरबिवोरस हैं, जिनको नेतृत्व फॉडर मिलता था, अब वह लेंटाना ने खत्म कर दिया है।

Sir, the National Biodiversity Authority has identified 117 invasive species in India which are posing as a major threat to biological diversity in seven out of the ten bio-geographic zones of our country. So, it is very important that these invasive species are curbed and this amendment will go a long way in helping us to manage these weeds.

The new Section 62A in the Bill proposes to empower the Central Government to regulate or prohibit import, trade, possession or proliferation of invasive alien species which are not native to India and whose introduction may pose a threat to wild life or habitat in India.

Sir, along with this, attention has also to be paid that, India being such a large country, we have very differentiated ecological zones with different climates and geography. We have to be careful about introducing species which are native to our country but can be alien to the different bio zones of our own country. One of the recent examples is, spotted deer, the Asiatic lion and even elephants that have been introduced in the islands of Andamans and Nicobar and now, they are proven to be destroying the ecology of those islands. So, attention has to be paid and only with careful study, we can transport one species from one part of the country to the other part.

Sir, there have always been village communities and forest tribes living either in the forests or around the forests and they are always dependent on the forest produce and other activities for their livelihood. गाय, बकरियाँ चरानी हों, अगर उनको फॉडर चाहिए, खाने बनाने के लिए लकड़ी या पानी चाहिए, the forests are the only place where they could go.

Section 29 of the Act amends the earlier provisions and now ensures that such bonafide use of forest resources by the local communities shall not attract any penal action. This is a very welcome step which will prevent undue harassment of such forest communities from local authorities and I want to thank the hon. Minister for bringing this amendment.
Simultaneously, to discourage any breaking of rules and violation of the provisions of the Act, monetary penalties are also being proposed to be increased. Certain other important amendments have been proposed for better management of the protected areas. In particular, the requirement of a management plan for sanctuaries and national parks has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government.

Sir, management of forests is another very important aspect of wildlife conservation. It includes population census of animals, eradication of alien plants, adequate presence of green fodder for herbivores, and required foliage density as well as conditions of water bodies and streams.

Sir, the Wildlife Institute of India is one of the premier institutes specially in regard to tiger conservation and such bodies will now have an increasing role to play in the proper and effective management of our forests and wildlife.

A new Section 62B has also been inserted and this proposes to empower the Central Government to call for any information or report from a State Government or any such other agency and also issue directions for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

(1430/SM/RAJ)

This will help to effectively manage and monitor all such conservation activities that will be going on in our country.

Sir, the concept of conservation of forests has always been a part of our ancient culture and heritage. Sustainability was ingrained in the thought process of early Indians since the time of Vedas. Forest at that time was divided into three categories, namely Mahavan, which was the great forest reserve and today, we have more than 100 such reserves in our country. Srivan was forest produce essential for the livelihood of human beings and livestock. Today, our country produces an exhaustive range of forest produce such as, timber, sandalwood, plywood, kendu leaves, bamboo, sal seed, honey, medicinal plants, rubber, cashew and spices.
Sir, the third category in the ancient times was *Tapovan*, where the sages resided and no animals or trees could be harmed. Today, these are our natural sanctuaries.

Sir, I am proud to say that under the able leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, we are gradually reviving our glorious past and culture. This Bill will prove to be another important step in that direction.

I mentioned earlier that we are leading the world in fighting to protect the environment and the enactment of this Bill will put in the forefront of the battle to save the ecosystem of our planet. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for the introduction of this Bill which not only fulfils the provisions of the CITES but also covers all aspects of conservation, protection and management of wild life in our country. Thank you.

(ends)
1432 hours

SHRI A. RAJA (NILGIRIS): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir for giving me this opportunity to comment on the Bill, namely, the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.

Sir, way back in 1972, the parent Act, Wild Life Protection Act, came into existence for three comprehensive reasons, namely, for protection of wild life, management of habitats and the regulation of trade of animals.

In the year 1973 and 1979, by virtue of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, party countries like India were pushed to enact some amendments in the respective laws. Accordingly, the hon. Minister is bringing in this law before the Parliament.

Sir, the attempt that has been made by the hon. Minister is honest, commendable and laudable. I know that he is a learned man. His prowess cannot be questioned. The measure is still putting so many question marks on whether the deliverance is going to happen or not.

Sir, let us holistically weigh the attempt that has been made by the Government irrespective of the measures individually taken by the hon. Minister by piloting this Bill. I want to address a few things on legal issues and the role of the States.

The hon. Minister is solely relying on the Conventions which were held in 1973 and 1979. As a signatory to the Convention, you want to bring this law. But forest is maintained by the State. You are bringing in a major amendment. A new chapter 5B has been brought in. Through this chapter, you want to give two new measures. One is structural changes in the system and the other measure is regulatory mechanism.

Coming to the structural issue, by inserting new Sections, 49D, 49E, 49F and 49G, two authorities are going to be constituted. There is a National Board of Wildlife, headed by the Prime Minister. The Vice Chairman of this Board is the hon. Minister. Similarly, you constitute the State Board. During my tenure, we created the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

(1435/KKD/VB)

During my tenure, we created the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau where my leader, Shri T.R. Baalu was the Minister. He initiated the National Forest Policy. It was completed during my tenure.
These two measures are very significant for the Department to address all the issues irrespective of this piece of legislation.

Sir, coming to the Act, when you are injecting a new provision in the name of a new Chapter, there will be a Management Authority in addition to the National Board and in addition to the State Board, where the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers are all Members there. It is working properly. But you want to create a Management Authority. Then, under the Management Authority, who is the Additional DG of the Forest?

Then, you are creating a new body called the ‘Scientific Authority’. What is the role of the Scientific Authority? The Scientific Authority involves private people, may be NGOs or experts. I do agree with the intention of the hon. Minister. But this Scientific Advisory will advise the Management Authority. In turn, the Management Authority and everything will be working under the statutory body, namely, the National Wildlife Board and State Board.

Sir, here you are creating two new authorities. Since the forest is being maintained by the States, is it not your duty to bring the role of the State Governments, at least, in the name of the District Forest Officers? There is no such role at all. You just want to satisfy the Convention of the International Trade. But where is your Range Officer? Where is your DFO? You may ignore the Ministry. Some of the Ministers may not be in line with the political colour, but the Government is Government. Now, you are creating two segregations. There is Schedule I, II, III and IV. Now, animals are separate. Among the animals, you have divided them into two categories. Then, there is grass, and vegetables. I thank, it is not in line of religion. At last, I am satisfied here as there is no saffron colour for this Bill! But in spite of that, it has been divided.

Please apprise me: what is the role of the Management Authority and the Scientific Authority?

I want to mention one more thing. When you are creating two bodies under this Act in order to satisfy the International Community, let me say -- it is as per my sources -- that after 2014, the National Board for Wildlife which is headed by the Prime Minister, where you, Mr. Minister, are sitting as a Vice-Chairman, has not been convened. Ever since 2014, it has not been created. In 2014, the last meeting was convened. But it has to be convened every year. From 2014, we are now, in 2022.
For almost eight years, you did not bother about the wildlife at all. Now, suddenly you are bringing this Bill saying that you want two more Committees. The numerical strength of the Committees will not give you any remedy when you are sitting without any action, I mean, inaction. So, what is the role of the State Governments?

Sir, coming to the classification of the animals, to protect them, there are penal provisions.

As regards regulatory measures, the existing Act says that ‘the Central Government can issue notification declaring a species as vermin so long as that species is not listed in Schedule I or Part II of Schedule II.’ Now, you have shifted to Scheduled II. It can be declared as vermin.

A major decision is going to be taken by the Government by virtue of this Bill. So, you are classifying that this is vermin and this is not vermin. I would like to know whether this decision was taken after the due consultation with the State Governments. How can you say that it is vermin or not unless and until the State Governments’ comments are taken into consideration? Even in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill, this point is completely silent. It will be very dangerous. When you are declaring a species as vermin without the consultation of the State Governments, what would be the proliferations of one species or destruction of another species? It is a very dangerous provision, which you have to reconsider.

Sir, let me come to Section 62A and 62B.

Section 62A(1) says:

“The Central Government may, by notification, regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession or proliferation of invasive alien species which pose a threat to the wildlife or habitat in India.”

(1440/RP/PC)

So, you are having the right to give direction. You have the right to regulate, prohibit, import, trade, possession, proliferation with regard to invasive alien species. I would like to know whether there is any clause with regard to domestic invasive species or alien invasive species. Is there any study being conducted or not?
Without any valid and scientific biological study, how can omnipotent powers be conferred on the Central Government through this Act without consulting the State Government?

Now, I am coming to 62(b) which says: “Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Central Government may call for any information or report from a State Government or any such other agency or body or issue any direction to a State Government…” So, you are making the law yourselves without consulting the States but thereafter, having enacted, you are going to receive the information from the States. What is this? Before tying the cattle, you have to do everything. Without cattle, you are doing everything and you want to bring the cattle. It will not work. So, what I am telling you is this. With due respect to the Government and the hon. Minister, your attempt is honest but this attempt will not give any legislative productivity. It is going to fail. That is why, I am telling you that if the Government really wants to fulfil the commitments, they should pay attention to fill up these gaps when they are making rules or delegating powers to the States. They should find out the ways by which it can be coordinated with this Act. Unless and until this was done, this Bill is going to be failed. I respect you and your knowledge. In spite of that, very poor exercise has been done by the Government. It cannot be accepted. Please revisit this Bill.

Thank you.
SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAGH): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021. I also thank my party for giving me this opportunity.

The Act also lists schedules of plants and animals that are afforded various degrees of protection and monitoring by the Government. Today, through this Bill, this Act will be amended after 16 years. I welcome this step. The most important reason given by the Environment Ministry for introducing the Bill was the urgent need to provide legislative backing to commitments made by India over the past many years to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals that came into force in 1975.

Now, I would like to discuss about the provisions of the Bill. The Bill seeks to implement provisions of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The Bill provides powers to the Central Government to designate a Management Authority, which grants export or import permits for trade of specimens. The Bill prohibits any person from modifying or removing the identification mark of the specimen. Currently, the Act has six schedules for specially protected plants, specially protected animals, and vermin species. The Bill reduces the total number of schedules to four.

The Bill empowers the Central Government to regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession or proliferation of invasive alien species. Invasive alien species refers to plant or animal species which are not native to India and whose introduction may adversely impact wildlife or its habitat. The Central Government may authorize an officer to seize and dispose the invasive species.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister that our State of West Bengal has border areas of dense forest with our neighbouring country Bangladesh. We have witnessed rising case of smuggling of Kangaroo a few days ago in Jalpaiguri forest. The Forest Department has seized it. The Kangaroos are the exotic species to India and they do not natively belong here. They struggle to adopt to this new eco-system and are mostly unsuccessful. They also carry the risk of disease that the native species might not have resistance. It is a very serious and alarming concern. The Central Government should take a note of it and such border areas should be freezed.
The Act entrusts the Chief Wild Life Warden to control, manage and maintain all the sanctuaries in a State. The Chief Wild Life Warden is appointed by the State Government. The Bill specifies that the actions of the Chief Warden must be in accordance with the management plans for the sanctuary. For sanctuaries falling under special areas, the management plan must be prepared after due consultation with the Gram Sabha concerned.

Sir, West Bengal has six national parks and sixteen wild life sanctuaries. The latest notified sanctuary of West Bengal is the Pakhibitan Wild Life Sanctuary located in Jalpaiguri district which is of 14.09 square kilometres.

Sir, in West Bengal, our Government has also successfully done the sustained efforts to build awareness among the people which led to drop in ritualistic hunting by 95 per cent.

The Bill provides for any person to voluntarily surrender any captive animals or animal products to the Chief Wild Life Warden. No compensation will be paid to the person for surrendering such items. The surrendered items become the property of the State Government.

Sir, through you, I would like to give some observations and suggestions to the hon. Minister, and I hope, he will answer to my queries on this Bill.

The Parliamentary Committee recommended the deletion of this exemption clause for elephants and argued that a careful balance between traditions and conservation was needed. The Bill empowers the Government to have arbitrary powers to declare species as ‘vermin’. Moreover, the Bill moots a reduction in the role of the State Wild Life Boards. These are the bodies which are crucial in determining the fate of large projects involving forests or protected areas in the States. Finally, the Bill loses the provisions of transporting the elephants which is likely to encourage illegal trade in wild elephants.

Sir, the Bill fails to address the human-animal conflict. There is a need to constitute Human-Animal Conflict Advisory Committee, headed by the Chief Wild Life Warden to suggest mitigation strategies such as changing of cropping patterns and drawing up site-specific plans.
Sir, the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 specially prohibits trade in wild animals including captive and wild elephants. Under Sections 40 and 43 of the law, transfer, acquiring and receiving of a live captive elephant is permissible only with the prior approval of the Chief Wild Life Warden. However, such transfer, acquisition, and receiving of the elephants should not involve any commercial transaction.

Sir, the Bill introduces a new sub-section 4 to Section 43 that takes away the protection from trade in them. The House Panel Report has recommended the deletion of the clause and provided an explanation of provisions for transport of captive elephants. It underlined that the Bill also has the provisions of excessive delegation and unrestricted power of the Central Government. I repeat, the Bill also has the provisions of excessive delegation and unrestricted power of the Central Government.

सभापति जी, यदि सारे अधिकार सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के हाथ में होंगे तो राज्य सरकार का क्या मतलब रह जाएगा? So, I would request the hon. Minister to take note of my suggestions as well as the suggestions given by the environmental experts and the Parliamentary Standing Committee. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

(ends)

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY): Hon. Members, kindly avoid talking loudly because it might disturb the Members who are delivering their speeches. ... (Interruptions)

Now, Shri Kuruva Gorantla MadHAV.
SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV (HINDUPUR): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to address this House today and speak on such an important Bill.

It is our collective responsibility to protect the environment which is essential for the very survival of flora and fauna. This environment has been passed on to us by hundreds and thousands of our earlier generations, and we have to pass on the same to the next generations. In this light, the Bill intends to protect the wildlife and balance the ecosystem. The proposed Bill seeks to amend the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and is needed more now than ever with the environmental change world is undergoing. I commend the Government for its insight in helping us move forward and protect our natural habitats and species in the best possible manner. With regard to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), I would like to begin by stating that India has a rich natural heritage, both in species and fauna, that has been exploited in the past. The provisions within the Bill to implement CITES, an international commitment to ensure that the trade of endangered species is fair and does not harm them, is a much-needed step to preserve our heritage. The Bill lays out a detailed methodology as to how to implement CITES, and this will ensure that the implementation is smooth and effective without unnecessary hurdles and middlemen.

Secondly, the Bill also proposes for creation of a Management Committee to ensure that registration certificates are provided to those dealing with endangered specimens. This is an important mechanism to prevent harmful elements from abusing our natural wealth. Such a step will ensure that whoever deals with a scheduled specimen reports the details of the same to the Committee.

Sir, the third point is with regard to the appointment of a Chief Wildlife Warden. The appointment of the Chief Wildlife Warden will help preserve our sanctuaries better. The warden will serve as the voice of authority and make a single office responsible for efficient conservation allowing the disposal of outdated administrative obstacles. Additionally, allowing the appointment to be decided by States is an important step that respects the principles of federalism this country was built on.
That being said, I have a few reservations about the Bill that I would like to bring to your notice. First is with regard to the invasive alien species. The Bill introduces the concept of invasive alien species, which is commendable. But the definition of species, as per the Bill, ‘which is not native to India’ is not the correct scientific definition.

Sir, the Bill also enables the bona fide use of drinking and household water by local communities. However, the bona fide use of this water should be recorded within the management plan of the sanctuary as it is also used by wild animals and forms a habitat for fish. To ensure that the environmental ecosystem works in harmony, the record of the bona fide rights should be a legal necessity.

Sir, traditionally, the declaration of a wild animal as vermin, has been done without any scientific assessment or study, and in the case of the Bill, it would now mean that species such as Striped Hyena, Indian Fox, Bengal Fox etc., could be declared as vermin very easily. This would have far-reaching consequences for the environmental ecosystem, and may result in an imbalance. It could also affect other endangered species, who would be harmed due to the traps set out for hunting and sale of vermin. I would, therefore, request the Government to consider both these suggestions.

Sir, having laid out these points, I come to the conclusion of the Bill. The overall sentiment and direction of the Bill is something that no well-wisher of India can deny. I hope that the Centre is able to bring greater clarity on the points I mentioned so that we may have a strong legal framework for protection of our wildlife. Thank you.

(ends)
बजे
श्री राहुल रमेश शेवाले (मुम्बई दक्षिण-मध्य):
महोदय, धन्यवाद।
महोदय, मैं अपनी िथा अपनी पाटी तशवसेना की िरफ से वन्य जीवन संरक्षण अधिनियम (संशोधन) विधेयक 2021 का समथान करिा हूँ। पतास सात पहले बजूद में आए वन्य जीव संरक्षण कानून, 1972 में अब तक कई बार संशोधन हुए हैं। यह आठवाा संशोधन इस कानून में प्रस्तावित है।
'वन्य जीवों एवं वनस्पतियों की लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के अं्नरााष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर कन्वेशन (कंवेशन ऑन इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड इन इन्डेंजड एफ्स एंड फ्लोरिएशन ऑफ वाइल्ड फॉना एंड सीआईटीईएस) का एक पश्चात् करने के नाते इसके बेहतर क्रियान्वयन करना का सरकार का उद्देश्य है। यह विशेषक वन्य जीवों और वनस्पतियों की लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के अं्नरााष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर कन्वेशन (CITES) के प्रावधानों को लागू करने का प्रयास करिा है। यह एक सराहनीय कार्य है। उल्लेखनीय है कि 1972 के मूल कानून में जहां सामान्य अपराध/ उल्लंघन के लिए जहां जुमाने की रकम 25 हज़ार रुपए थी उसे बढ़ाकर अब एक लाख रुपये तक कर दिया गया है। वहीं बिशेष रूप से संरक्षित वन्य जीवों के रखताफ हुए अपराध के लिए 10,000 रुपये थीं उसे भी बढ़ाकर अब 25,000 रुपये कर दिया गया है। संकटग्रस्ि प्रजातियों का अवैध व्यापार अं्नरााष्ट्रीय स्तर पर व्यापक पैमाने पर हो रहा है। इस तकनीक के जमाने में इन्टरनेट ऐसे व्यापार को आसान बना रहा है। इन नए माध्यमों के इस्िेमा ल मसलन इन्टरनेट को 'साइबर अपराधों' की श्रेणी में रखिे इस अधिनियम में प्रावधान करना िातहए। साइबर क्राइम को भी इसमें शातमल करना िातहए, यह मेरी डिमांड है।
महोदय, संकटग्रस्ि और लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों को लेकर डायरेक्टोरेट ऑफ रेवेन्यू इंटेतलजेंस (DRI) की वर्ष 2019-20 की रिपोर्ट में भी इस बढ़ते अवैध व्यापार पर चिंता जताई गयी है। इस रिपोर्ट में भी बतलाया गया है कि भारत में यह सब तेजी से बढ़ रहा है और उसे कंट्रोल करना चाहिए।
महोदय, दूसरा उद्देश्य इस कानून के तहत संरक्षित वन्य जीवों, पक्षियों और पादपों के लिए निर्धारित अनुसूतियों को सरल बनाने का है। इसलिए इस संशोधन का मुख्य जोर इन अनुसूतियों को बदलने पर है। मूल कानून में और वर्ष 2013 में हुए संशोधन में अब तक अनुसूतियों 1 और अनुसूतियों 2 के भाग 1 में दी गयी प्रजातियों व अनुसूतियों I, II, III व IV में शामिल प्रजातियों के लिए संरक्षण और उनके हनन के लिए अलग-अलग दंड विधान मौजूद थे, जिन्हें अब केवल दो अनुसूतियों में तब्दील किया जा रहा है। यह बहुत ही सराहनीय है। अनुसूतियों में प्रस्तावित बदलाव को स्पष्ट और पारदशी बनाने की जरूरत है।
महोदय, 'हाथी रज़वा या हाथी कोरडोसा को ठीक वही कानूनी पतवत्रिा या श्रेष्ठिा प्राप्त नहीं है, जैसे टाइगर रज़वा को है। हाथी के पयाावासों के लिए कभी कुछ किया ही नहीं गया है। हाथी -मानव द्वंद्व भी उन्हीं इलाकों में बढ़ रहे हैं, जहां उनके नैसर्गिक रास्तों में खदानें खोद दी गयी है व उनके नैसर्गिक पर्यावरण के साथ गंभीर छेड़छाड़ हुई है।
“हाथी रजर्वा या हाथी कोररडोसा को ठीक वही कानूनी पवित्रता या श्रेष्ठता देने की जरूरत है, जैसे टाइगर रजर्वा को है। इसके लिए सरकार को इस संशोधन में प्रावधान करने की जरूरत है। वन्य जीव संरक्षण और सामाजिक अधिकारों के बीच हमेशा गहरा तनाव रहा है। वनाधिकार मान्यता कानून, 2006 को चुनौती देने वालों में वन्य जीव संरक्षणवादी समूहों ने अहम भूमिका निभाई थी। वे आज भी वनाधिकार के तहत मान्य किए जा रहे अधिकारों को वन्य जीवों और जंगल के लिए बढ़ा खतरा मानते हैं। इस संशोधन में वनाधिकार मान्यता कानून, 2006 की अहमियत को स्वीकार करने अभ्यास क्षेत्रों में केंद्रीय दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार प्रबंधन योजना बनाते समय वन अधिकार मान्यता कानून का सम्मान करने अभ्यास क्षेत्रों में केंद्रीय तदशा-तदेशों के अनुसार प्रबंधन योजना बनाई जाना अतिवाया बनाया गया है। हालांकि यह प्रावधान वर्ष 2013 में हुए संशोधन में भी शामिल था, लेकिन इसका असर दिखलाई नहीं दिया। इस प्रावधान का स्वागत किया जाना चाहिए।

महोदय, वन अधिकार मान्यता कानून की धारा 4 राष्ट्रीय पार्क व अभ्यारण्य की सीमा में निवासस्थान अनुसूचित जनजाति और अन्य परंपरागत समुदायों के अधिकारों को मान्यता देते हुए धारा 4 (2) (Г) इस तथ्य को स्थापित करता है कि मानव समुदायों व पर्यावरण के बीच 'सह-अस्तित्व' जैसे उक्तियुक्त विकल्प उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।

(1500/KN/SNT)

इसके साथ ही इन क्षेत्रों में निवासस्थान समुदायों के पुनर्वास व पुनर्स्थापना के लिए प्रावधान किए गए हैं। धारा 4(3) में दिये गए प्रावधान में यह भी स्पष्ट किया गया है कि ये अधिकार केवल इस शर्त पर दिये जाएँगे कि ऐसी जनजातियाँ, जनजाति समुदायों या अन्य परंपरागत वन निवासियों ने 13 दिसंबर, 2005 से पूर्व वन भूमि अधियोग में ली हो। यह इस कानून का एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधान है, जो इस गलतफहमी को भी दूर करता है, जिसके तहत यह प्रचारित किया जाता है कि गैर जनजाति, लेकिन परंपरागत समुदायों को तीन पीढ़ी या 75 सालों से वन भूमि पर काबिज होने का प्रमाण देना होगा।

यह एक स्वागतयोग्य कदम है। महोदय, इस स्वागत योग्य और सराहनीय पहल के साथ-साथ इस संशोधन अधिनियम में भूमि अधिग्रहण के लिए औपनिवेशिक कानून, 1984 को भूमि अर्जन, पुनर्वास और पुनर्व्यवस्थापन में उचित प्रतिकृत और पारदर्शिता का अधिकार कानून, 2013 को भी बदला गया है।
महोदय, अगर एक साथ वन अधिकार अधिसूचना कानून, 2006 और भूमि अर्जन, पुनर्वसन और पुनर्वस्थापन में उचित प्रतिकार और पारदर्शिता का अधिकार कानून, 2013 को अभ्यारण्य और राष्ट्रीय पार्क क्षेत्रों में लागू किया जाता है, तब सही मायने में यह परंपरागत रूप से जंगलों में निवासी आदिवासी व अन्य परंपरागत समुदायों के हित में होगा। इसके बारे में सरकार को सोचना चाहिए। अब तक इन क्षेत्रों में बसे समुदायों को केवल पुनर्वसा और पुनर्वस्थापन का पात्र ही माना गया है और इसके लिए भी उन्हें एकमुश्त नकद पैकेज के रूप में दिया जा रहा था। उन्हें उचित प्रतिकार से बचत रखा गया था। लेकिन इस कानून को वन जीव संरक्षण कानून में स्थान दिये जाने के बाद इन समुदायों को भी अब इस दायरे में लाया जा सकता है।

महोदय, नकद पैकेज की व्यवस्था खत्म की जानी चाहिए और वर्ष 2013 में पारित हुए कानून के मुताबिक उचित प्रतिकार का आकलन करके स्पष्ट व्यवस्था व दिशा-निदेश बनाए जाने चाहिए। कानून के तहत गठित राष्ट्रीय वन जीव बोर्ड की तर्ज पर राज्य वन जीव बोर्ड की संस्थानों में आमूलचूल बद्लाव इस अधिनियम के मसौदे में सुझाए गए हैं। अब तक यह व्यवस्था चली आ रही थी कि इस बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री होते थे, लेकिन इस संशोधन के जरिये अब राज्य मंत्री को इस भूमिका से बाहर कर दिया गया है।

अब इस व्यवस्था में वन मंत्री को इसका अध्यक्ष बनाया दिया गया है। इसके साथ ही इसके सदस्यों की संख्या को दस तक सीमित कर दिया गया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री को रिक्वेस्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि वन मंत्री को वन जीव बोर्ड का अध्यक्ष बनाए जाने का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ, लेकिन जो सदस्य संख्या दस है, उस संख्या को कम न करते हुए उसमें ज्यादा संख्या करनी चाहिए। बोर्ड की बैठकें जल्दी-जल्दी होनी चाहिए। बोर्ड को जो रिपोर्ट है और इसके बारे में जो डिसिजन मेकिंग पॉलिसी है, उसका इम्प्लिमेंटेशन होना चाहिए। मैं इस महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक का फिर एक बार समर्पण करता हूँ।

धन्यवाद (इति)
1503 बजे
श्री सुमीत कुमार (वाल्मीकि नगर): सभापति महोदय, वन्य जीव संरक्षण संशोधन विषयक, 2021 पर आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद करता हूं। महोदय, वन्य जीव शुद्ध का व्यापक रूप से उपयोग अपने प्राकृतिक पर्यावरण में पाये जाने वाले किसी वन्य पशु, पक्षी, जलीय या स्थलीय वनस्पति के लिए किया जाता है।

महोदय, भारतीय वन्य जीव संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1972 में पारित किया गया था, जिससे कि वन्य जीवों के अवधि शिकार तथा उनके हाड-मांस और खाल के व्यापार पर रोक लगाई जा सके। इसे सन् 2003 में संशोधित किया गया और इसका नाम भारतीय वन्य जीव संरक्षण (संशोधित) अधिनियम, 2002 रखा गया। अन्य सुधारों के अलावा, अधिनियम संशोधित पौधे और पशु प्रजातियों की अनुसूचियों की स्थापना तथा इन प्रजातियों की कटाई व शिकार की मोटे तौर पर गैर कानूनी करता है। यह अधिनियम जंगली जानवरों, पक्षियों और पशुओं को संरक्षण प्रदान करता है। महोदय, वन्य जीव संरक्षण संशोधन अधिनियम, 2022 की बात करे तो प्रश्न उठता है कि किसी सुरक्षा, किसका संरक्षण और किसका प्रबंधन?

महोदय, प्रचार साल पहले बजूर में आए वन्य जीव संरक्षण कानून, 1972 में अब तक आठवां संशोधन इस कानून में प्रस्तावित है। इससे पहले वर्ष 1982, 1986, 1991, 1993, 2002, 2006, 2013 और 2021 में संशोधन हो चुके हैं और अब इसमें पुनः संशोधन की आवश्यकता आने लगी है। मूल रूप से लुप्त ग्राम: प्रजातियों के व्यापार पर एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन को अपनाना और प्रजातियों के लिए नई अनुसूचियों को तैयार करना मुख्य मकसद है। क्योंकि सन् 2019-20 में डायरेक्ट ऑफ रेवन्यू इंटेलिजेंस ने भी इस बदले अवधि कारोबार पर चिता जताई थी।

(1505/GG/SGR)

यह विषयक कानून के अंतर्गत संशोधित प्रजातियों को बढाने और वन्य जीवों तथा वनस्पतियों की संरक्षण कानून के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर केन्द्रित कव्यासंस को लाभ करने का प्रयास करता है। विषयक की मुख्य विषयों में एक साइट्स, सरकारों के बीच एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय संधि है जो यह सुनिश्चित करती है कि वन्य प्राणियों और पौधों के नमूनों के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार से उन प्रजातियों के अर्थव्यवहार पर कोई खरिद नहीं होगा। कव्यासंस के तहत सभी देशों में यह अपेक्षित है कि वे परमिट के जारी सभी सूचीबद्ध नमूनों के व्यापार को रूलेट करें। नमूनों के व्यापार के लिए निर्यात या आयात परमिट देने के लिए केंद्र एक प्रबंधन वाधिकार नामित कर सकता है। बिल किसी भी व्यक्ति को प्रबंधन वाधिकार द्वारा बनाए गए नमूनों के प्रहार चिह्न को संशोधित करने या हटाने से रोकता है और अनुसूचित जानवरों के जीवित नमूने रखने वाले प्रयासक व्यक्ति को पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त करना होगा। केंद्र एक मुख्य वन्य जीवन वार्ड की नियुक्ति करेगा, जो केंद्र में प्रजनन के लिए आवेदनों को संस्थापित करता है या किसी अनुसूचित नमूनों को कृत्रिम रूप से प्रचारित करता है। उल्लंघन के मामलों में आवेदक के पंजीकरण को अस्वीकार करने या रद्द करने का अधिकार उसे है।
माननीय समाप्ति महोदय, बड़े सौभाग्य से मैं नव-जीवन संस्करण संस्करण विशेषक की व्याख्या का चर्चा में भाग ले रहा हूँ। मेरे लोक सम्प्रदाय के अंतर्गत वाल्मीकिन्नर व्याकरण अभ्यासक हैं। विहार राज्य का इकलौता बांध अध्यापक 880 वार्षिक किलोमीटर से अधिक क्षेत्र में फैला है। यह विहार के कुल व्याकरण का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा है। वाल्मीकिन्नर व्याख्या अभ्यास में स्त्रोतार्थी, पात्र, रस्सीपूर्ण, लताएं एवं पीढ़ियों के प्राकृतिक हैं। बदलते मौसम और जलवायु परिवर्तन का ध्यान में रख कर जानवरों को उसके अनुमोदक प्रभाव के लिए भी उपयोग होने चाहिए, जिससे कि जलवायु परिवर्तन होने पर भी वे खुद को परिवर्तन के दौर में जीवित रख सकें। जानवरों को दो विशेष रूप से संरक्षित अनुसूचियों में वर्गीकृत करते हुए, विधि पर कुछ अपवादों को छोड़ कर, किसी के द्वारा भी उनके व्ययांक का प्रतिबिंब करता है। विल विश्लेषण प्रारम्भिक तक्कर के लिए व्याख्या शैलीय नमूनों के लिए एक नया शैलीय सम्प्रभुत करता है। विल में अनुपूरक एक के तहत 131 स्त्रोतार्थी, 112 पात्र, 43 रस्सीपूर्ण, 26 माननीय, 63 कीड़े, 338 मुंगे और अनुपूरक प्रकार के तहत 121 स्त्रोतार्थी, 864 पात्र, 12 रस्सीपूर्ण, 58 कीड़े मोलस्क को भी सूचीबद्ध किया गया है। पीढ़ियों के लिए एक अलग प्राकृति की सूचीबद्ध है।

विशेषक केंद्र को भारत के नून निवासी नहीं, आक्रामक विशेष प्रारम्भिक के आयात, व्ययांक, कदम या प्रसार को नियंत्रित करने या प्रतिबंधित करने का अधिकार देता है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है। राज्य के अलावा, केंद्र भी एक संस्करण है।

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY): It was Shri Sunil Kumar’s maiden speech. All the best for him.

The next speaker is hon. Minister, Dr. R.K. Ranjan Singh ji.
1510 hours


PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Is this a reply or an intervention?

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY): It is an intervention.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): So, it is an intervention and not a reply. Okay. … (Interruptions)

*DR. R.K. RANJAN SINGH: Thank you Chairman, Sir, I will speak in Manipuri. The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 which is brought for passing today is very timely. This will help in the speedy protection and conservation of rare species. In this regard, I am happy to share as a Manipuri and would like to recall the ponies of Manipur, which we call “Sagol” in our language. Ponies played a very significant role in the 3000 year-old civilizational history of Manipur. In fact, our civilization was created by riding on these horses. The world famous polo was started as “Sagol Kangjei” in our land by riding these ponies; this is the genesis of polo. But unfortunately because of the changing circumstances the habitat areas of pony mainly the water bodies, marshy land and grass land have been extremely reduced due to ever increasing human population and movement of civilization. Pony has been associated with and promoting our age old civilization, culture and heritage linking with the modern world and also presenting and sharing with the integrated culture of Bharat.

Now, the ponies with the limited space and changing circumstances, their population has gone down below five hundred. This is unique specie of Manipur pony. After passing this Amendment Bill and when it becomes an Act, it will have enough scope - and I feel - that the pony will be certainly protected and promoted and its population will also increase.

Thank you very much for introducing such Amendment Bill by the Ministry and Hon. Minister; as well as I thank the Hon Prime Minister of India for this Amendment. Thank you.

(ends)

* Original in Manipuri
SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI (JAJPUR): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important Bill that seeks to protect wild animals, birds, and plants to ensure ecological and environmental security of the country. On behalf of my Party, namely, Biju Janata Dal I rise to support this Bill.

As we all know, India is home to 16 per cent of the world’s population. At the same time, different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, invertebrates, and over 50,000 plant species also call this subcontinent home. Encroachment on the wildlife habitat have posed a serious threat to the very wild life, especially to the endemic species such as Asiatic Lion, Bengal Tiger, Indian White-rumped Vulture, Nilgiri Leaf Monkey, etc. Nearly 172 wild life and endemic species of India are also included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature designated as threatened species of the world, which accounts for 2.9 per cent of the number of threatened species of the world.

At present, we have the Wild Life Protection Act, Customs Act, and Import-Export policies in India, but still illegal hunting, poaching activities, and trade is flourishing. Further, the Wild Life Protection Act does not cover the foreign endangered species of plants and animals. The concoction of inadequate legislative protection and uninformed enforcement officials often results in endangered species and indigenous wild life being passed off as foreign species, which are not regulated by any formal legislation. Further, some of the migratory species are not protected by the Wild Life Protection Act.

Similarly, conservation of fishes has never been adequately addressed in India due to lack of scientific data and perception about the criterion to be used for characterisation and designating conservation status of threatened fishes. For an effective approach to combat the illegal trade in wild life, the legislation for the protection of wild life needs joint enforcement and trans-national congruency for a uniform implementation.

(1515/SPR/MY)

Our State Government under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik ji has taken several steps for the protection of forests and wildlife. The State has 19 wildlife sanctuaries, National Parks, elephant reserves, tiger reserves, and identified elephant corridors for addressing in-situ conservation of wildlife in the state.
Sir, 11 zoos have been established in the State for the conservation of animals and 15 eco-sensitive zones around these protected areas have been proposed for declaration as per the direction of the Government of India. All the sanctuaries are guided by a wildlife management plan prepared for ten years. Similarly, all the zoos are operated as per the Zoo Management Plan approved by the Central Zoo Authority. As of now, 539 Eco-Development Committees have been formed, covering an area of 43,455.32 hectares of protected area.

In order to protect elephants and to ensure minimal human-elephant conflict, 25 hectares of rejuvenation corridor have been taken up during 2021-22. Vulnerable stretches of National & State Highways are being identified to take steps to check road accidents for animals. Sir, 586 anti-depredation/anti-poaching squads, an elephant squad, and 115 elephant trackers have been engaged to prevent depredation by wild animals. The Government have launched awareness campaigns with the help of VSS/Eco-Development Committee members, NGOs and school students. Further, 2785 Gaja Saathi have been engaged in 557 villages. The Nandankanan Zoological Park received the Pollution Control Appreciation Award.

Apart from that, people having exemplary contributions in the field of wildlife conservation are felicitated with the Biju Patnaik Award for Wildlife Conservation, which has been instituted since 2005. All this shows that we can safeguard them, protect them with strong legislation and implementation mechanisms.

This Bill has been examined by the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The Committee while examining the Bill, has made certain important recommendations, and I think these recommendations deserve consideration. The Committee believes that this infrastructure needs to be mobilized more meaningfully in the cause of wildlife conservation, protection, and management.

The Committee recommends insertion in Section 33 of the principal Act, for the words "manage and maintain all sanctuaries", the words "manage and protect all sanctuaries" shall be substituted. I think this is a good suggestion. After all, our intent is to protect them.
In Clause 2, the Committee recommends that after the word "protection" the word "research" may be inserted, and after the words "management of wildlife" the words "enabled by science" may be inserted. I think there should be a distinction between a criminal act and a possible erroneous breach of the law, especially regarding permissions granted for education, science, and research. The latter should attract fines, undoubtedly, but not imprisonment.

In Clause 6A (2), the Committee recommends that for the words "not more than ten members to be nominated by the Vice-Chairperson from amongst the members of the Board", the words "at least one-third of the non-official members of the State Board to be nominated by the Vice-Chairperson, at least three institutional members of the State Board to be nominated by the Vice-Chairperson and the Director of the Wildlife Institute of India or his/her nominee" may be substituted. If implemented, this will make the Board more professional with domain experts.

The Committee also noted that several species were missing in all three schedules and that the Bill fails to address "human-animal conflict". To remedy this, the Committee has recommended a Human-Animal Conflict Advisory Committee headed by the Chief Wild Life Warden to suggest mitigation strategies such as changing cropping patterns and drawing up site-specific plans. I am hopeful that the House will deliberate in detail on all these suggestions and will draft a robust legislation.

The need for effective strategies and solutions for the protection of wildlife in India and conservation of wildlife is the need of the hour. The Government must work in accordance with the present needs and demands in a situation when these wildlife species are threatened and many of which have come to the verge of extinction. The State Governments and the Central Government are required to work together and implement all the relevant laws and conservation strategies in order to protect the wildlife and prevent illegal hunting and trade of these endangered species and wildlife as a whole.

Thank you, Sir.

(ends)
(1520/CP/UB)

1520 बजे

श्री रामविलास प्रसाद (आवकरी): समापति महोदय, अपने मुझे कन्या जीव (संसर्ग) संस्थापन विधेयक पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको और मेरी पार्टी की मुखिया माननीय बहन कुमारी मायाविनी जी का आभार प्रकट करता हूँ।

महोदय, कन्या जीव (संसर्ग) अधिनियम, 1972 में सुधार करने हेतु इससे पहले वर्ष 1982, 1986, 1991, 1993, 2002, 2006 और 2013 में अब तक सात बार संशोधन हो चुके हैं। मौजूदा अधिनियम कन्या जीवों एवं वनस्पतियों के लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के संसर्ग और संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियों के अवध व्यापार और शिकार पर रोक लगाने के लिए लाया गया था, लेकिन प्रस्तावित विधेयक में किए जा रहे संशोधन स्पष्ट और पारदर्शी नहीं हैं, न ही अनुसूचियों में शामिल की जा रही प्रजातियों को लेकर कोई संभावना है। विशेष रूप से अनुसूची 4 जो सीआईटीईसा को आधार बनाकर जोड़ी गई है, उसमें भी कोई संभावना नहीं है। प्रस्तावित कानून में कन्या जीव, पक्षियों और पादपों के संसर्ग की मूल भावना में परिवर्तन कर केवल 'कन्या जीव' में सीमित कर दिया गया है, जो इस प्रावधान को और अधिक कमजोर बनाता है। प्रस्तावित कानून के तहत जीवित हाथियों को इस प्रावधान से बाहर कर दिया गया है। इसका मतलब यह है कि अब हाथियों का ट्रॉपिकल, व्यापार या खरीद-फरीद की जा सकती है। प्रस्तावित विधेयक की मंशा हाथियों से ऐसे जंगलों को मुक्त कराना भी है, जहां अकूत खिनिज और कोठोत दबा है, जिससे इसका दोहर आसानी से किया जा सके। साथ ही इसमें राज्य वन बोर्ड को भी कमजोर करने प्रावधान किया गया है।

मौजूदा कानून के तहत राज्य वन्य जीव बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष मुख्य मंत्री होते हैं और वन मंत्री उपाध्यक्ष होते हैं। इसके अलावा इसके सदस्यों में अधिकारियों के साथ-साथ 10 पर्यावरण विशेषज्ञ शामिल होते हैं। लेकिन इस कानून में संशोधन करते हुए अनुच्छेद 6a का प्रावधान किया गया है, जिसके तहत राज्य वन्य जीव बोर्ड की एक स्थायी समिति का गठन करने का प्रस्ताव है। इसकी अनुमान इन मंत्री करेंगे समिति के सदस्यों की संख्या 10 से ज्यादा नहीं होगी। इनके नाम मंत्री द्वारा नामित किए जाएंगे। अगर मंत्री चाहें तो स्थायी समिति के सिर्फ दो सदस्य, वन मंत्री और एक सदस्य, के साथ भी काम कर सकते हैं। इससे राजनीतिक बढ़ावा मिलेगा। साथ ही, राष्ट्रीय वन्य जीव बोर्ड की कोई बैठक वर्ष 2014 से नहीं हुई है। इसके अध्यक्ष माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी होते हैं। सरकार को इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

इस प्रस्तावित कानून के जरिए लकड़बग्घा, अंडमान जंगली सुअर, लोम्बडी, जंगली बिल्ली, सियार जैसे जानवरों को वर्तमान जीव-जंतु की श्रेणी, जो फसल या अनाज को नुकसान पहुँचाते हैं, में डालने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है। इसमें ऐसे कोई भी जानवर नहीं है, जो मनुष्य को डार्इस्ट रूप से हानि पहुँचाता है और ये फसल भी बचाव नहीं करते हैं। इस संशोधन द्वारा इनकी आसानी से हया की जा सकती है और इनके चमड़े के गैर-कानूनी व्यापार को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है। सरकार को इस पर विस्तृत विचार-विमर्श करने की आवश्य्कता है।
संकटग्रस्त और लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों का अवध व्यापार अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर व्यापक पैमाने पर हो रहा है। तकनीकी के जमाने में इंटरनेट ऐसे व्यापार को और अधिक बढ़ा रहा है। ऐसी प्रजातियों को लेकर डायरेक्टर ऑफ रेवेन्यू इंटेलिजेंस की वर्ष 2019-20 की रिपोर्ट में भी इस बढ़ते अवध कारोबार पर चिंता जताई गई। ऐसे में सरकार को इस साइबर अपराधों की श्रेणी में रखते हुए इस अधिनियम में प्रावधान करना चाहिए।

(1525/KMR/NK)

वहीं विशेष रूप से संरक्षित वन्य जीवों के ख़िलाफ़ हुए अपराध या उल्लंघन के लिए जुर्माने की रकम जो वर्तमान में 25 हज़ार रुपये है, इसे बढ़ाकर कम से कम एक लाख रुपये किया जाए और दंड प्रावधान को अधिक कठोर बनाया जाए। राष्ट्रीय रिजर्व या हाथी कॉर्डोर को ठीक वही कानूनी श्रेष्ठता प्राप्त हो, जैसे टाइगर रिजर्व को है। इसके साथ ही वन्य जीवों के पुनर्नाश और प्रबंधन पर जोर देने की आवश्यकता है।

सभापति महोदय, मेरी माननीय मंत्री जी से मांग है कि वन क्षेत्र के अंदर जो गांव बसे हैं, उस गांव में आने-जाने के लिए कोई रास्ता नहीं है और जनपद स्तर पर अधिकारियों द्वारा रास्ते को बनाने से भी रोक दिया जाता है। इसलिए मेरी सरकार से मांग है कि कानून बनाकर रास्ता बनाने के लिए निर्देश दिये जाएं। मेरे क्षेत्र श्रावस्ती और बलरामपुर में दो जनपद आते हैं। जो नेपाल बॉर्डर से सटा हुआ क्षेत्र है। अक्सर चीता और अन्य जंगली जानवर मनुष्य के बच्चों और जानवरों को उठाकर जंगल में ले जाते हैं और हत्या कर देते हैं।

मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूं, श्रावस्ती और बलरामपुर, उत्तर प्रदेश का पिछड़ा जनपद है। माननीय मंत्री जी को विशेष रूप से ध्यान देना है। उसके किनारे जानवरों से बचाने के लिए कम से कम विशेष रूप से व्यवस्था करें। धन्यवाद।

(इति)
SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P. (LAKSHADWEEP): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to participate in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021, and I am thankful to my party for reposing faith in me.

The Bill seeks to increase the species to be protected. I appreciate the kind of effort the hon. Minister and the team have taken to bring in this draft amendment by way of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021. I am in support of the Bill. At the same time, I wish to seek a few clarifications from the hon. Minister on certain issues.

The first one is the whole ambit of the Bill. I feel that the emphasis is more on the management of the resources rather than on protection. Whilst wildlife management takes into consideration the ecological principles such as carrying capacity of the habitat, preservation and control of the habitat, reforestation, predator control, reintroduction of extinct species, capture and reallocation of abundant species, and management of desirable or undesirable species; protection of wildlife and management of resources should be addressed with the same importance. A shift from the protection aspect to the management of resources may weaken the protection strategies of the Scheduled fauna and flora.

Further, the proposed amendment must include a section to mandate the Central and State Governments to protect and conserve areas outside the protection areas which are recognised as wildlife habitats.

The Bill also misses an opportunity to recognise and protect corridors of important migratory routes and flyways. Most of the proposed amendments lack the careful consideration, scientific rigour, and transparency that the exercise demands. The preamble itself is problematic. Earlier the emphasis was on the protection of wild animals, birds and plants. The amendment includes the term management. While seeming innocuous, this implies a shift in the mindset of the Government from the protection of wildlife to its management as a resource.

My second point is on the vermin species. On these, the criteria need to be adopted. In the present Act, the Central Government can declare any wild animal, which is not there in Schedule I and (ii) of Schedule II, as vermin under Section 62. The proposed amendment has proposed to reduce the list of wild animals appended to the Act from four Schedules to two Schedules.
In doing so, the Bill now proposes that any wild animal not listed in Schedule I can be declared as vermin. It means that all the animals listed in Schedule II cannot be declared as vermin. The list includes 41 mammals, 864 birds, 12 reptiles, five amphibians, 58 insects, 14 molluscs, and 10 sponges, which may be declared as vermin by the Central Government.

(1530/RCP/SK)

While most of the animals which can be declared as vermin in the present Act and the proposed Bill may not have significant differences in the composition of species covered, the Central Government must deliberate upon the justification for declaring a long list of wild animals. It is because the purpose of declaration of any animal as vermin has been to control the population of an animal which is beyond management. Such an exercise must be undertaken with utmost caution and respecting the constitutional duty under Article 48A of the Government to protect forests and wild life.

My third point is this. As far as elephant trade is concerned, the Bill allows that. But here we need a clarification. A newly inserted Section 43 (4) states: “This section shall not apply to the transfer or transport of any live elephant by a person having a certificate of ownership, where such person has obtained prior permission from the State Government on fulfilment of such conditions as may be prescribed by the Central Government.” Here, the Section is unclear as to the meaning of prior permission; whether prior permission has to be obtained from the State Government. From which State Government has it to be taken? Is it from the Government where the origin of the transport is happening or from the State to which it is going? So, we need to have a clarification on such permission from where to where the animal is being transported. I must say that intimation of such transport must be brought to the notice of the Chief Wild Life Wardens or the authorised officials. It is necessary for the interest of elephant protection that any transfer or inter-State transport is to be notified to the Chief Wild Life Warden or the authorised official of the jurisdiction where the elephant has been transferred or transported from and the jurisdiction to which the elephant has been transferred or transported to. For that, such a record should also be maintained by the concerned authority.
Coming back to centralisation – this is the most important part which we always have been discussing on – the Bill renders the existing State Boards for Wild Life as defunct ones. The Bill weakens premier institutions like the State Board for Wild Life headed by the Chief Minister, for all their emphasis is on clearing projects within the protected areas. Some State Boards like in Karnataka and Maharashtra have been proactive in expanding the protected area networks. It is now proposed to establish a Standing Committee of the SBWL to be headed by the Forest Minister thereby effectively rendering the SWBL defunct. This was the case with the National Board also. It dilutes the gravity of SBWL by reducing it to a body meeting with the sole purpose of allowing damaging products in the protected areas.

One more issue is that they are trying to include NITI Aayog in the NBWL Standing Committee. Most of the NITI Aayog projects are contrary to the conservation part. So, all these aspects are to be taken into consideration and I need a clarification from the hon. Minister.

Increasing the ambit of the legislation by using the term ‘wild life’ which includes any animal, aquatic, or land vegetation that forms part of any habitat. As far as my constituency, Lakshadweep is concerned, I urge that a more detailed discussion should be there by experts in the listing of individual species instead of groups. Listing of individual species instead of groups is a major deviation from the current Act and it will need further consideration. This can give rise to taxonomic ambiguity when identifying species and filing wild life offences in many cases. Additionally, many species from these groups have not been included in the current schedules. Also, new species are still getting described which is especially true for invertebrates, coral, sponges, and amphibians, and these newly reported would not get due protection as per the legislation if we go for listing individual species instead of groups.

As far as Lakshadweep is concerned, its marine wildlife is not completely known yet and research works are going on to enlist undiscovered aquatic fauna and flora which may contribute much more to the marine biodiversity of the Islands. If individual species are listed instead of groups, these individual species which should be protected for conserving the ecological balance of islands cannot be included in the schedules which may lead to large-scale destruction which is going to happen by constructing the lagoon villas.
Though their name is changed to water villas, the lagoon villa which is proposed to come in the Lakshadweep is in the lagoon area. The lagoon area is the only area for the preservation and conservation of corals which is the life of the island.

(1535/RK/MK)

When the coral is destroyed, the existence of island is at stake. The Administration is saying that they have got permission from the Ministry. I am very doubtful about that and would like to get a note from the Ministry on that.

Finally, sea cucumber, which is listed under Schedule I of the Act, is a protected species. The problem is with regard to the awareness which is lacking with the people residing there. One kilogram of sea cucumber used to cost between Rs. 5,000 and Rs.12,000.

Recently, the Central Government has sanctioned a special scheme to protect sea cucumbers, and has appointed Lakshadweep Marine Wildlife Protection Watchers to man the anti-poaching camps. As a result of that, we could seize a large consignment of sea cucumber which was being smuggled out of the country.

A CBI case has been registered in this regard. After the new administration has come in, the entire class of Marine Wildlife Protection Watchers has been retrenched and now smuggling is going on. I have written a DO letter to you highlighting this aspect. It is a Centrally sponsored scheme. I do not know what is the problem of the administration in implementing it. A clarification is required on this aspect. With this, I support the Bill. Thank you.

(ends)
SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Thank you, Sir. I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important Bill. In this year of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, where we are celebrating our human accomplishments, I feel the time has come not only to celebrate but also to resolve today that we will leave no stone unturned to protect, preserve, and enhance our natural heritage in this Amrit Kaal. I am sure, the Environment Ministry is doing something on this, and would be happy if the hon. Minister shares with this House what his Ministry is doing to protect, preserve, and enhance our natural heritage, biodiversity, and what plans it has for these in this Amrit Kaal.

The House should feel proud, rather the entire country should feel proud, that in spite of India having just 2.4 per cent of the world’s landmass, we are contributing more than eight per cent to the world’s biodiversity. India has more than 90,000 varieties of fauna, 45,500 varieties of flora and home to four out of 35 world biodiversity hotspots. But, at the same time, if we do not act or become blind to what is happening during the last 20-25 years, our advantage and our conservation story would become a sad story, indeed. I am saying this because we are one of the top 20 countries in wildlife trafficking as well. We have seen nearly 25 species of fauna and flora becoming extinct and more than 100 species are currently endangered.

With these preliminary submissions, since time at my disposal is very limited, I wish to directly come to the Bill and share my views with a hope that the hon. Minister would peruse them and take remedial measures.

First, I come to Clause 3 of the Bill, which talks about ‘Invasive alien species’, whose introduction or spread may threaten or adversely impact wildlife or its habitat in our country. I welcome this. Here, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister one study which indicates that India is losing nearly 100 billion dollars every year due to invasive species. I will give one example from my home State of Andhra Pradesh, how introduction of an exotic alien plant species in 1980s in Seshachalam Hills – home of Lord Balaji – is now taking its toll. The plant species from Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea introduced in our Seshachalam Hills was Acacia Auriculiformis, commonly known as auri, earleaf acacia, or earpod wattle. It has disturbed ecological balance in Chittoor, Kadapa and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh.
Now, we have to replace it with native species. Otherwise, the entire biosphere of Seshachalam, which is home to several endemic plants like Red Sanders, Cycas, etc. would be destroyed. So, Clause 3, which deals with it is a good move. But, at the same time, this Clause is silent on native Indian species which have invasive qualities. 

(1540/PS/SJN)

Hence, I suggest for constituting a taskforce to study this and to recommend to the Ministry for taking an appropriate action.

Secondly, if you look at Appendix 2 of Schedule IV, Item No. 444, you have mentioned 'Pterocarpus Santalinus'. It is the scientific name for red sander tree which is available only in Seshachalam forest in Chittoor of Andhra Pradesh. It is smuggled out of the country by local smugglers. If you have seen the movie Pushpa recently, it depicted these types of scenes. It is smuggled out of the country and any action for smuggling of red sanders is under the Customs Act and not under the Wild Life Protection Act. It is because this tree is not a Scheduled species. So, I suggest for consideration of the hon. Minister to include red sanders under relevant Schedule which helps to take action under this legislation, thereby we can reduce smuggling and save red sanders from extinction.

The next point which I wish to make is about transfer of live elephants under Clause 27. Many hon. Members have spoken about it. I am with the Government when elephants are sold or given for performing some rituals at temples. But all I wish to say is that care should be taken against the unscientific management and pathetic treatment of elephants by administration, mahouts and others. I am worried because twenty-nine captive elephants died in 2021 and in six months of this year, three elephants have died in captivity. I suggest that the Government should issue strict guidelines and also create some inspection mechanism for regular checks and taking punitive action for any violation of those guidelines.

Now, I come to Clause 62 of the Bill which empowers the Government of India to declare any animal as ‘vermin’. The hon. Member has mentioned about it a while ago. We call vermin as nuisance animals as they destroy our crops, kill livestock, and spread diseases. It does not mean that we kill them left and right.
Nothing has been mentioned in the Clause on the process to be followed to identify which animals are vermin. No transparent and accountable process based on ecological and social evidence has been prescribed. The moment a wild animal is declared as vermin, it loses its legal protection and such wild animal becomes a domestic animal and can be killed, tamed or traded. I feel it will have ecological consequences which will lead to an imbalance. Even the hon. Supreme Court in Animal Welfare Board of India versus A. Nagaraja case in 2014 categorically held that every species has the right to life and security with some intrinsic worth, honour, and dignity. So, all I wish to submit to the hon. Minister is to have a scientific approach and transparency in declaring wild animals under Schedule II as vermin.

The Bill proposes to increase penalties for general violations from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 1 lakh and violation against specially protected animals from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000. I feel that these are still very much on the lower side and the hon. Minister can consider revising it multiple times looking at the importance of ecology and protecting nature and wildlife.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the next point is the one on which this entire Bill is placed and it is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. We joined this Convention in 1976, that is, forty-six years ago. This Convention mandates parties to take suitable steps to enforce its provisions. We are implementing this in the year 2022. What are the reasons behind this enormous delay? This may kindly be explained to the House.

Sir, these are some of the points which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister.

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI P.V. MIDTHUN REDDY): Please conclude.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): I hope that he would act on them accordingly.

Let us give a simple message to the country: ‘Let every citizen of this country love and conserve our amazing wild life and biodiversity.’

Thank you very much, Sir.

(ends)
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir.

Sir, the Bill seeks to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, that is, CITES. It is a protection for wild animals, birds, and plants. The main amendments have taken place in the areas of Schedules. Earlier, in the Act of 1972, there were six Schedules. Now, this Bill reduces the number of Schedules to four.

As per the new amendment, Schedule I specifies the animal species with the highest level of protection; Schedule II specifies the animal species with a lesser level of protection; Schedule III specifies the protected plant species; and Scheduled IV specifies the species listed in the Appendices to the Convention. (1545/SMN/YSH)

Sir, Schedule V is going to be deleted after the passing of this Amendment. The entire content of this Act and the new Amendments are that whoever violates the Wild Life Protection Act, he will be punished. No doubt about that. But my concern is about human-animal conflict. We have to protect the wild life but we have to protect the people whoever is living outside the forest. That is my concern. I have come from that area which has more than 350 kilometres of boundary with forest. We are facing the issues regularly. As per the Kerala Government statistics, 1233 people have died in the last ten years because of the animal attacks. More than 34,875 wild animal attacks have taken place in the State of Kerala. About 6,803 have been injured. In my Constituency, alone by an elephant attack, 40 people have died in the last ten years.

Sir, so many people have raised this matter here. What is the number of elephants that are there all over India? It has crossed 30,000. Now, it is above the carrying capacity of our forests. It means that we have to protect the wild life but we have to protect the life of the people whoever is living outside the forest also. Sir, as per the Supreme Court Judgement, buffer zone is going to be extended by one kilometre. That means there are some restrictions that have to be there. In my Constituency, there are eight National Parks and one Wildlife Sanctuary. They are nine in total if we include National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary. In the surroundings, if one kilometre of buffer zone comes, it means the people have to evict automatically because we cannot live with the animals. So, we have to address that case specifically.
The Supreme Court has given permission. There are some relaxations. First, we have to approach CEC, then then Ministry of Environment and Forest and then, the Supreme Court of India. It will take more time. It is a time-consuming process. For avoiding that time-consuming process and to exclude the people inhabited from the area of the buffer zones, we should have a legislation. That is my request to the hon. Minister. We should have a legislation for protecting the people inhabited in that area and plantation agriculture land from this buffer zone. The Union Government should intervene in this case and we should pass a new enactment for protecting people especially the farming community.

Sir, what about vermin list? So many people have raised this already. As per the new amendment, the vermin list is not there in the new Act. Schedule V is going to merge with Schedule II of the new Amendment Bill. That means we cannot call all the animals together as vermin. It is true but vermin should be there. We have the bitter experience of wild boar. We have a demand from the State of Kerala. The hon. Minister is very much aware about that. We cannot imagine about the wild boar attack. Thousands of wild boars are coming at one time and they are destroying the agricultural lands within a few minutes. If we are announcing it as vermin, we can give shoot at sight orders. That is correct. It is the survival crisis of our farmer community. So, I request on behalf of Kerala that wild boar should be announced as vermin. As per the new amendment, vermin means wild life as per the Section 62. Section 62 says that all the animals apart from Schedule V animals are vermin. It should be amended as all the animals including wild boar. That is my amendment. The Government may grant it.

Sir, we should have a Wildlife Management Policy which has to be adopted. Wild life must be considered as a renewable resource and their reproduction must be controlled accordingly. To do this in a scientific way, the existing Section 12 needs to be amended by incorporating sub-section 4. Permission must be given for hunting those animals like wild boars that are reproducing at an alarming rate even beyond the capacity of forest area.
Sir, the farmers are not getting enough compensation. So, my humble demand is this. We should have a Tribunal like the Motor Vehicles Tribunal for providing enough compensation to our farmers who are victims of various wildlife attacks. It is also imperative to establish a human sensitive zone which should be 500 metres inside the forest for protecting people from wild animal attacks in the forest.

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY): Please conclude. There are more speakers from your party.

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, I am concluding in a minute. The punishment norms also have to be made. There is an amendment proposed in Section 54(iv). Presently, the compensation to be paid under sub-section (i) is Rs. 25,000. It is now being raised to Rs. 5 lakh.

I welcome this. But, at the same time, as per section 53, any official who has done anything in contravention of Section 50, that is illegal confinement or arrest or wrongful seizure, he may be punished by way of imprisonment for a period of six months or a fine of Rs. 500. This amount also has to be increased. Human life should also be protected. That is the main point I would like to highlight.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

(ends)
1551 hours
SUSHRI DIYA KUMARI (RAJSAMAND): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill. I would like to begin by thanking our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji and our hon. Environment Minister for bringing an exemplary and comprehensive Bill that will protect native Indian species, improve enforcement of the law and will ensure that the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 is compliant with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Sir, our Government under the able leadership of the hon. Prime Minister has displayed great determination to make India a responsible and a climate resilient economy. At a time when global warming is increasing, forests are vanishing and various species of flora and fauna are disappearing, our visionary Prime Minister has taken strides in the right direction to lead the country towards a more sustainable future. India has been a signatory to the CITES for the last 46 years. Earlier Governments failed to consider even the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. So much so that in the year 2004, the CITES Secretariat had warned India that the Conference of Parties would suspend trade with India due to non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention. I would like to congratulate our Government for incorporating the provisions of the CITES in the Wild Life Protection Act as a separate Chapter VB titled, ‘Regulation of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora’.
1553 hours (Shri A. Raja in the Chair)

What has also caught my attention is that the amendments under this Bill shift our focus on the conservation, protection and management of wild life. We never had a streamlined process for trading in plants and animals which often led to rampant malpractices in the field. Now, the provisions of this Bill intend to regulate wild life trade as per the Convention. It is also a timely and necessary Bill as it seeks to empower the Centre to regulate or prohibit the trade or possession of invasive species. This will ensure that the balance in the native eco-system is maintained. The provisions of this Bill clearly specify that the actions of the Chief Wild Life Warden must be in accordance with the management plans of the sanctuary. This ensures that a consultative process is followed rather than an arbitrary process.

Sir, it is pertinent to highlight here that the sanctuaries falling in areas of Scheduled Tribes, the management plan will be prepared after due consultation with the Gram Sabhas.
The involvement of local communities and the concerned Gram Sabhas shows the commitment of our Government to uphold the federal structure of our country. This will also reduce incidence of man and animal conflict. I think, it is very important. As a former representative of a tiger sanctuary, I can say that the Government is very committed to involving local communities and this would go a long way in reducing the man and animal conflict that happens, and also the local people will feel more involved with the way the sanctuaries are run.

(1555/RU/RAJ)

Another welcome move is empowering the State Boards for Wild Life to constitute a Standing Committee for exercising certain delegated functions. This decentralisation process will ensure more localised solutions and faster decision-making as it reduces the dependence on the Centre and on State level Board meetings. By constituting a Standing Committee, a lot of workload will be reduced and there will be State Wild Life Board meetings more regularly. Many States like Rajasthan need to probably have more regular meetings which do not happen. By having a Standing Committee, the pendency will reduce and the workload on the State Wild Life Boards will also reduce hopefully.

Sir, the increase in penalties for violating the provisions of the Act will act as a deterrent to crime. This will also safeguard against any practices which may endanger the survival of wild life in the long run. I say this with pride that the hon. Prime Minister is leaving no stone unturned to punish those who try to hinder the wild life ecosystem. As a representative from the State of Rajasthan which has 25 wild life sanctuaries, five National Parks and is home to many endangered species, I say this with utmost confidence that the present amendments will go a long way to safeguard our endangered native species and preserve our natural heritage.

Sir, as someone who has a wild life sanctuary in my current parliamentary constituency, Rajsamand and has a National Park in my previous Vidhan Sabha constituency, Sawai Madhopur, I really appreciate the amendments proposed in this Bill. Sir, I would like to thank the Government on behalf of the people of Rajsamand, Rajasthan for this farsighted Bill. This Bill will put India at the forefront of preserving biodiversity and conserving the environment.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the time to speak on the Bill. Once again, I would like to thank our hon. Prime Minister for this landmark Bill and congratulate the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests for the same.

Sir, I will conclude by saying that I support the Bill.

(ends)
1558 hours

DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (MALAPPURAM): Sir, I thank you for permitting me to take part in this very important discussion.

There is no disagreement on the well-recognised fact that wild life has to be protected. Forest conservation and environmental protection are very important subjects. This Bill primarily addresses the protection of wild life but it has a close link or it is directly linked with the safety of human beings. Though this Bill is addressing that issue, the provisions of the Bill are not sufficient enough to deal with the situation and to solve the serious problem that is challenging the safety of human beings and especially farmers.

This kind of a legislation must have necessary provisions to protect humans, and especially farmers among them, from the on-going dreadful attack of wild animals. I am not arguing for a human centric world order. I believe in the system which Albert Schweitzer stated. He has said that our world view must include even the butterflies that fly in our gardens. I do believe in it but along with that, everything has to be human-oriented. I think, the hon. Minister who has come with such a very important landmark amendment of this Bill will be considering these issues and suggestions again while giving a final shape to this legislative piece.

Every activity of ours has to be judged on its life-yielding capacity. I agree that every life is important but which is more important? Is it the life of the animal or the life of the human being? There is a famous poetic saying as:

न तू जर्मी के लिए है, न आसमां के लिए,
जहां है तेरे लिए...।

Human being is most important and when we come to the dignity of human beings, the forest conservation and environment protection should be there and has to be given due importance. But Sir, it should not be at the cost of human life and human dignity. Every life is life but dignity of human beings has to be given due importance.

(1600/SM/VB)

Sir, everybody is worried about missing species. But human beings are also missing. The wild life attack on human beings has assumed an alarming proportion especially in the State of Kerala.
According to the Forest Department of Kerala Government data, since 2011, 34,875 cases of wild life attack have been reported; 1,233 human beings have been killed and 6,803 human beings were injured. The State has paid Rs.29.39 crore in connection with compensation against these cases. A number of 27 human deaths in conflict with wild elephants took place only in the last year.

Sir, in the period between 2016 and 2020,17,116 incidents of crop raid by animals took place. A number of 1,214 cattle-lift cases have occurred. Along with that, now-a-days, there is a very serious problem of stray-dog attack on human beings in Kerala. I am not going into that because it does not come within the purview of this Bill. Similar cases of wild life attack on human beings are in other States also.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the Kerala Government had submitted a proposal to the Ministry to declare wild pig as vermin. But the Ministry turned down the proposal. I would like the hon. Minister to consider this request because it has a serious importance with regard to human lives.

Sir, in this on-going Session, in a written answer to my question given in the Lok Sabha, the hon. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has stated that the incidents of wild animal attacks and crop loss due to wild animals have been reported from various parts of the country including the State of Kerala. But nothing is concretely done to solve this problem.

Sir, ethics demand, culture demands, human values demand, human dignity and humanity demand that we should ponder over this serious issue and bring out strong provisions in our attempt instead of shedding tears. Everybody is shedding tears for the suffering persons attacked by wild animals. But nothing concrete is being done. I am reminded of a couplet.

"साहिल के तमाशाईं हर डूबने वालों पर, अफसोस तू करते हैं, इमदाद नहीं करते।"

Everybody is shedding tears. Something has to be seriously done. I would like to request the hon. Minister to take into consideration these suggestions. Thank you.
1603 hours


At the outset, I support the intention of the Government for extending the scope of the Bill to include conservation, protection, and management of wild life through this amendment. At the same time, I wish to point out some of my objections to the various provisions of the Bill. I have already given the amendments to the provisions of the Bill in detail.

Sir, it is a fact that this Bill is not based on professional and public opinion but it is drafted as per the bureaucratic whims and fancies. The Standing Committee has also commented that this amendment will only help to complicate the current provisions for protection of wild life and the purpose of India’s commitment to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora would not be served fully. Instead, the Committee has recommended either to bring in a separate Bill for CITES or to restrict it to simple amendments. It is known that there are 50 amendments. Some of them bring some confusions also. But the Government is adamant that it will go ahead with these amendments.

Sir, in addition to the ambit of the Bill, I wish to highlight the important issues. Some other hon. Members from Kerala also have pointed out the issue regarding the forest and its protection. People in forest fringes across the country are living in fear of eviction following the Supreme Court order for setting up of buffer zone of minimum one kilometre from the boundaries of the protected forests.

(1605/KKD/PC)

In Kerala alone, one lakh families, 2.5 lakh acres of agricultural land, and two dozen townships will be affected by this verdict. But the Government has not shown its willingness to file an affidavit to avoid human settlements from the buffer zone. I know, the hon. Minister is lenient to requests of the people of Kerala. I hope, all the Members sitting here would agree that life and livelihood of citizens is equally or more important than wildlife.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to make clear the stand of the Government in the Supreme Court immediately.
Section 8 of the principal Act speaks about the duties of the State Wildlife Board which include advising the State Government on the selection and management of protection areas.

Sir, I would request the Government to include the declaration of the extent of buffer zone taking into consideration the density of population as also the duty of the State Board in each State. By doing this, the concerns of the common people could be addressed.

Another major issue is the human-animal conflict, about which some other hon. Members also spoke. It has increased manifold over the years. Not only the loss of life occurs due to protected animals like elephant, tigers and wild buffalos entering the human habitation but it results in huge agricultural loss as well. But this Amendment Bill is silent on providing assistance for the victims of animal attacks.

So, I would request the Government to include a national insurance scheme for payment of compensation for loss of life as well as crops and property, and for injury, as suggested by the Government of Kerala as part of this Bill.

Sir, the loss of crops due to wild pigs is causing a big problem in many States including Kerala.

Now, the power to declare wild animals as vermin rests with the Union Government and it is causing difficulty in controlling them. Hence, I would request this Government to share the controlling power with the States also. It is necessary for the effective control of such animals.

Sir, there is a provision in this Act to declare the rescue and rehabilitation centres, and elephant camps owned by the Forest Department as ‘zoos’. This would result in practical difficulties, and will not be feasible as zoos serve a different purpose,

With these worlds, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

(ends)
1608 बजे

श्री. एस. टी. हसन (मुरादाबाद) : सर, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि आपने मुझे समाजवादी पार्टी की तरफ से बोलने का मौका दिया।

सर, वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट अपने आप में बहुत सक्षम है, जिसकी वजह से हम आज तक वाइल्ड लाइफ को प्रोटेक्ट कर सके हैं। आप अमेंडमेंट्स लेकर आए हैं, इन अमेंडमेंट्स में हम आपके साथ हैं। हम आपके अमेंडमेंट्स को एप्रिशिएट करते हैं, लेकिन, चेयरमैन सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री के संज्ञान में कुछ बातें लाना चाहता हूं। एक प्रोब्लम यह है कि जब वाइल्ड एनिमल मैनईटर हो जाता है, खास तौर से जब टाइगर मैनईटर हो जाता है, तो हमारे वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट की धारा-11 में प्रविजन है कि उसको खत्म कर दिया जाए। लेकिन हमारे अधिकारी आजकल एनजीजो के बहुत प्रेशर में हैं। आपको माननीय है कि लोग अपने आप को प्रोमिनेंट दिखाने के लिए बहुत सी एनजीजों के साथ बन जाते हैं और मुख्तलिफ प्रोब्लम्स क्रिएट करते हैं। वे उन टाइगर्स को फिल करने का ओर्डर नहीं देते, बल्कि ट्रेंक्युलाइज करने का ओर्डर देते हैं। इससे रामनगर रेज के अंदर, मोहन के घर एक टाइगर मैनईटर हो गया है। उस टाइगर ने एक जवाब दिया कि चाले 20 दिन पहले ही मारा है। आपने दिन जब उस आदमी की लाश को देखा, तो उसकी हास्ता का धोझा हो गया। लेकिन हमारी की वजह आपके लाइफ मीर्टर में है की कुछ नहीं करने वाले हैं।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि कम से कम जब 15-20 मीटर पर टाइगर होगा, तब ही वह ट्रेंक्युलाइज होगा। 15-20 मीटर की दूरी पर एक मैनईटर टाइगर के पास जाना आसान बात नहीं है, कोई उसके पास नहीं पहुंच पाता। आप उसे रात में ट्रेंक्युलाइज नहीं कर सकते हैं। अगर आपने उसे रात में ट्रेंक्युलाइज कर भी दिया, तो आधे घंटे बाद वह ट्रेंक्युलाइज होता है और तब वह जंगल के अंदर कहां जाकर बेहोश हो जाए, किसी को पता नहीं। इसके आधे घंटे बाद वह फिर से होश में ही जाता है और उठकर बहार जाता है। उस टाइगर को शूट करने का ओर्डर क्यों नहीं दिया जाता? शिकारी लोग शूट करते हैं, हमेशा से ऐसा होता चला आया है। शिकारी 100 मीटर से लेकर 200 मीटर तक इस टाइगर को मार सकते हैं।

(1610/IND/RP)

महोदय, शिकारी रात में भी इसे लाइफ कर सकते हैं, लेकिन ट्रेंक्युलाइज रात में नहीं किया जा सकता है। मैरी दस्कवास्त है कि कम से कम इसानी जानों की रक्षा का महत्वपूर्ण बनाने के लिए अवश्यकता इस बात की है कि जानवर को जल्द से जल्द मार दिया जाए।

महोदय, हमारे एरिया में लेपर्ड बहुत ज्यादा हो गए हैं। मैं पश्चिम उत्तर प्रदेश मुरादाबाद से आता हूं। मुरादाबाद की तहसील कॉट, तहसील ठाकुरद्वारा के जिलों में लेपर्ड के हमारे घटनाएं आए दिन होती रहती हैं। वे जानवरों को मार देते हैं और इसानों को जख्मी करते हैं। इन्हें पकड़ने के लिए क्यों इसे इसके हेबिटेट में नहीं भेजा जाना चाहिए? मंत्री जी के संज्ञान में एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात लाना चाहता हूं।
हम बातें बहुत करते हैं लेकिन जमीनी स्तर पर काम नहीं हो पाता है। राम नगर में सैकड़ों बीघे का विर्जिन फोरेस्ट काटा गया। वहां ऐसे-ऐसे बड़े पेड़ थे जिसे पांच आदमी खड़े होकर पेड़ के सरक्करूंफरेंस भी कवर नहीं कर सकते थे। ऐसे पेड़ों को अधिकारियों की सांझ-गांझ से काट दिया गया। आपको इस विषय का संज्ञान लेना बहुत जरूरी है।

महोदय, जानवर फसलों को नुकसान पहुँचा रहे हैं। मेरे एरिया में बंदर बहुत संख्या में हैं। बंदर के साथ आस्था का भी सवाल है। बंदर फसलों को नष्ट कर रहे हैं। छोटा किसान गन्ना नहीं बो रहा है।

महोदय, जंगली सूअर बहुत ज्यादा हैं। नील गाय भी बहुत संख्या में हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि इन्हें भी पकड़ने या मारने का आर्डर होना चाहिए। नील गाय का नाम बदल कर यदि आप जंगली घोड़ा कर दें, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।

(इति)
SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI (BHUBANESWAR): Thank you, Chairperson, Sir. It is both, a privilege and an opportunity, to speak on the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.

I would start by saying that the term ‘wildlife’ was coined by William Hornaday in 1913 in his book ‘Our Vanishing Wild Life’. All of us know what does wildlife imply. Wildlife implies all the biotic elements of the earth including plants, animals, birds, and microbes of the world excluding man, domestic animals and cultivated plants. This particular Bill is an example or an indication of the fact that our Government, hon. Prime Minister Modi’s Government, has always tried to seek opinion of all as regards amendments to be made.

The other Bill, I had spoken of, had also gone to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. This particular Bill had also been sent by the Ministry to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. Now, I must mention here that this Bill had been tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on December 17, 2021. It was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on December 25, 2021, and after careful examination, scrutiny, and with a set of recommendations, the Standing Committee sent it back to the Lok Sabha on April 21, 2022, and, as we know, it seeks to amend the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

Sir, wildlife conservation is the practice of protecting plants and animal species and their habitats. But, when we take up a Bill for amendment and we examine the contours of the Bill, it is extremely important to understand why the Bill has been brought or tabled and why there is a requirement for amendment in the Act. It is important to understand what does wildlife mean or what is the definition of wildlife. Sir, I will take you to a definition of wildlife given by the World Bank. The World Bank had said: “Wildlife is a crucial component of the eco-system and it forms the livelihood of hundreds and millions of rural poor.” That is why, we need to take this particular thing very seriously. At a time when wildlife all the world over is under threat because of habitat conversion, poaching and fragmentation, it is extremely important for all of us to sit with the policy makers, to work with the policy makers, and to safeguard wildlife protection in pursuit of poverty alleviation and inclusive growth.
Sir, I will also take you to the Constitution of India. Article 51-A (g) of the Constitution of India clearly states that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and wild life, and that is why all the 140 crore citizens of this country must protect wild life. It is something which has been told to us by the Constitution of India which we of us uphold in high esteem.

Sir, as has been said by all the speakers to my right and also to my left, this Bill seeks to increase the number of species protected under the Act so far. The hon. Minister, when he started the whole discussion, said that this particular Bill intends to implement CITES that is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora.

Sir, I will not take much time. I will just say that there are seven salient features which I will very briefly touch upon.

First, the Bill provides for the Central Government to designate a management authority which would look into the grant of export and import permits. It is very important. Every person engaging in the trade of a Scheduled specimen must report the details to the management authority. This is one extremely important point, and I would like the House to actually keep this particular thing in mind. The second point is regarding rationalising Schedules. Right now, the Act has six Schedules. This Bill will bring it down to 4 Schedules wherein ‘Vermin’ species is getting eliminated. I am very briefly touching upon the salient features. Thirdly, many of my friends on the right have mentioned this. At the cost of being repetitive, I would say that we also talk of invasive alien species. This refers to the plants and animals which are not native to India and whose introduction to the country would adversely impact our wild life and their habitat. So, we have to handle them very carefully. The Bill empowers the Central Government to regulate and prohibit the trade of these invasive alien species. Sir, the fourth is regarding control of sanctuaries. One of my friends to my left talked about the Ranthambore sanctuary. The Bill specifies that the actions of the Chief Wild Life Warden should be in accordance with the management plans of the sanctuary. I want to touch upon these points very briefly. There are 565 wild life sanctuaries in our country, and we all need to protect them very well.
Sir, the fifth point is regarding the conservation reserves. Under the Act, the State Government may declare areas adjacent to the national parks or the sanctuaries as conservation reserves. Now, here the Bill is also including the Central Government. The Central Government, if it so desires, can actually declare a particular area adjacent to the national park or sanctuary as a conservation reserve. I would say, this is definitely a wonderful and a welcome addition to the Act.

Sir, the surrender of captive animals is a very important point. The Bill provides for any person to voluntarily surrender any captive animals or animal products to the Chief Wild Life Warden, for which there will be no compensation.

Sir, the last and of course, the most important point is regarding the fines. Fines have been increased. This reveals the fact that we are very much concerned about the protection and the conservation of wild life and the habitat. Fines have been increased from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. For specially protected animals, fines have been increased from at least Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000.

Sir, I remember, when the hon. Minister had taken over as the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, he had made a Statement. I had read it and really, I was impressed. … (Interruptions) I appreciate it. He had said:

“The Environment Ministry is not an obstacle but a solution provider.”

So, the second thing I would definitely like to mention here is this. I would like to quote Mahatma Gandhi. He had said:

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

Sir, of course, a couple of months back, all of us were listening to the “Mann ki Baat” on the last Sunday of the month.
Our hon. Prime Minister in that ‘Man Ki Baat’ had invoked a Tamil poet, and he wanted to convey a very important message to all of us. I would like to place that message before this esteemed august House, before my esteemed colleagues. He said, ‘What we know is just a handful of sand. What we do not know is like the universe in itself’. Similar is the case with the biodiversity of the country, that is, India.

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI A. RAJA): Please conclude.

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI (BHUBANESWAR): Sir, we need to know the biodiversity, we need to know the needs of wild life and the habitat, and we all need to work together. This is a very meticulously drafted Bill, and I would just make an appeal to all my esteemed colleagues to kindly support the Bill. Thank you very much, Sir.

(ends)
SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for affording this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The Wild Life Protection Act of 1972 is a landmark legislation in the legislative history of Indian Parliament. The Act was then amended in the year 1991, and I would like to appreciate the Government and the Minister for taking the initiative to make appropriate changes at the appropriate times so as to update the Wild Life Protection Act of 1972, as amended in the year 1991.

Sir, it is an admitted fact that we cannot discuss the ecological and the environment security of the country in the Indian scenario. We have to discuss it in the global scenario. We have had a very detailed discussion about it in the Climate Change Conference which had recently taken place, and had a very good detailed discussion in this House. At the same time, I would like to state that the ecological security and environmental security means the protection and safety of the wild animals, birds, and plants as they are also part and parcel of the ecosystem. That is why it is the prime responsibility of each and every citizen as well as the entire society to see that wild life, especially wild animals, birds and plants are protected. Security and safety of these things have to be taken to be the prime consideration.

Sir, coming to this amendment Bill, even the first thing is regarding the amendment to the preamble itself. I think that it is having a wider perspective because in the original Bill, in the principal Bill, it is ‘the protection of wild life’. Now we are amending it as ‘conservation, protection and management of wild life’ which gives it a wider perspective as far as wild life is concerned because management of wild life as well as conservation of wild life is the need of the hour. I fully support this concept by which wild life, animals and birds are protected. We have to conserve as well as manage the wild life. The human-animal conflict as well as buffer zone management will definitely come within the purview of this management. I think that everything whether it is the environmental aspect or the ecological aspect, all will come under these two words, that is, management and conservation as well as protection. So, I fully support and agree with the Government on this amendment Bill.
I would also like to appreciate the hon. Minister in bringing such an amendment to the preamble of the Bill itself by which we are widening the scope of the protection and conservation of wildlife.

(1625/SAN/KN)

Coming to the point of conservation and management, I would like to express one apprehension that I have. I would like to know whether the NDA Government led by BJP since 2014 has been following or abiding by the principles of wild life protection, security and safety. This Government is always talking of the *mantra* of development. I can cite a series of examples which I am not doing because of the paucity of time. In the *mantra* of development, this Government is not taking into consideration the environmental aspects and the ecological aspects. Even the protection under the Wildlife Act is being ignored in almost all the cases. Even in the cases of mining and so many other cases, they are being ignored in the *mantra* of development. What does development mean? It should be a sustainable development based on the principles of ecological safety and environmental safety, but unfortunately, if we examine critically the eight years of experience of this Government in power, and if the hon. Minister does an introspection, it can very well be seen that most of the stringent rules and regulations, which are there for the protection of environment and the protection of wild life, are being diluted by means of a series of policy decisions as well as amendments to the existing Acts. With regard to this Act, I fully agree with you. At the same time, mere enactment of a piece of legislation is not sufficient to protect the wild life; a strong political will is also required to protect the wild life as enunciated in this law.

I come to my last point regarding the protection of tamed elephants. Sir, you may kindly see that the Bill has a huge influence over it. In a State like Kerala, we are having our cultural and festive spirit associated with these elephants. The tamed elephants are an integral part of many festivals of the State of Kerala, such as the UNESCO recognised Thrissur Pooram Festival which showcases the cultural integrity that the State of Kerala stands for. In Kerala alone, there are 437 tamed elephants, out of which 39 elephants belong to the forest. Every year, an average of 30 elephants are dying. We know that an elephant is a must in our cultural festival and ritual festival.
Sir, there is a definition in clause 2(6). Prior to this amendment, there was a definition by which it was included in ‘cattle’. Subsequently, in 1991 amendment, it was omitted. At the same time, it is there in part I of the Schedule also. My submission is that these tamed elephants have to be protected. I am not going into the details. My amendment is there. My suggestion is that it is to be incorporated in the Schedule because Asiatic elephant is there. It includes the Asiatic elephant, but excludes the tamed elephant so that it can be protected. I fully agree that a new provision has been incorporated by which the ownership and transfer is well accepted. I again oppose the recommendation made by the Standing Committee headed by Shri Jairam Ramesh that it can only be owned by the temple trusts because I think that individuals should also be given authority to own, transfer and transport these elephants.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

(ends)
परेशानी नहीं पड़ अब उनको राज्य को था। गया (1630/GG/SNT थी द्वारा को कवधेयक इसको माध्यम सूंशोधन कवधेयक श्री 1628 hours श्री 02-08-2022 RSG / RJS SH / MM Uncorrected / Not for publication

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ऐसी हैं, राज्यों को जो अधिकार अप है रहे हैं, इनको भी इसमें शामिल करेंगे तो मुझे लगता है कि जो कठिनाइयां लोगों को उठानी पड़ रही है, उससे उनको मदद मिल पाएगी। इस बिल में वन्य जीवों तथा वनस्पतियों की संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियों को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर केंद्रित करने वाला कानून का लागू करने का इसमें प्राधिकृत किया गया है। भारत की देशी प्रजातियों का भी संरक्षण इसमें है। इसमें कानून के प्रवर्तन में सुधार का प्राधिकृत भी किया गया है। सुरक्षित क्षेत्रों के बेहतर प्रबंधन के लिए भी संरक्षण है। यह अधिनियम क्षेत्र जीवों की सुरक्षा और संरक्षण से संबंधित है। इसमें वनस्पति और जीव दोनों शामिल हैं।

देखा गया है कि सूची प्रजातियों के अवध व्यापार और शिकार को प्रतिबंधित भी इस प्राधिकृत के लिए किया जाएगा। अधिनियम किये गए मैथिली प्रजातियों की बेहतर देखरेख के लिए इसमें संरक्षण है। बहुत सी ऐसी प्रजातियों हैं, जो आज भी दुर्भाग्य हो चुकी हैं। में अपने क्षेत्र की बात करता हूँ। मैं माननीय जीवों का ध्यान जेव-विविधता पर आकृति करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी ऐसी-ऐसी पहाड़ियाँ हैं, जिनमें दुर्भाग्य प्रजातियों के पीछे, जीव, जंतु, पशुओं सब कुछ है, लेकिन वे धीरे-धीरे लुप्त हो रहे हैं। अगर उनको संरक्षित किया जाएगा तो निनिष्ठत तौर पर वे प्रजातियाँ बचेंगी। केंद्र सरकार द्वारा विश्वसनीय शर्तों के अनुसार व्यावसायिक प्रणाली-प्रणाली रखने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा जीवित प्रजातियों के अंतरण या परिवर्तन करने के लिए उपबंधयों विवेक रखा है। नियमांकन प्राथिकृत रखा है और अन्यांकन को राष्ट्रीय उथानों, अभ्यासों, सामुदायिक आपारों और संरक्षित क्षेत्रों की घोषणा करने का अधिकार भी यह विवेक देता है।

अधिनियम में पौधों और जानवरों के शेड्यूल को भी सूचीबद्ध किया गया है, जिनें सरकार द्वारा विविध प्रकार की सुरक्षा और निगमन प्रदान करेगी। चूंकि यह वन्य जीवों के संरक्षण का मामला है, हमारे यहाँ प्रणाली का सबसे अनोखा संपदा बाय पहली बार हमारे बिंद की धरती पर मिला था। सन् 1951 में रीवा के राजा ने आखेंट के दौरान एक शाल को पकड़ा और उसको संरक्षित किया। उसके बाद उससे कई संतानें पैदा हुईं। आज दुनिया के भीतर जितने भी वाइट टाइगर हैं, उसकी जननी अग्र कोई है तो हमारे बिंद क्षेत्र की जननी हैं। वर्ष 2016 में हम लोगों ने सो हैकटेर में वाइट टाइगर सफर को नाहिं है और 25 हैकटेर में उसको खुले तौर पर रखा है। अभी भी वहां वाइट टाइगर के तीन शाखे हैं। वहां 28 प्रजातियों हैं और लगभग 200 से ज्यादा ऐसी जीव-जंतु हैं, जिनका संरक्षण हो रहा है।

(1635/SRG/RV)

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI A. RAJA): Please conclude.

श्री गणेश सिंह (सतता): मैं माननीय मंजी जी का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं कि उनके संचालन में धोखी कठिनाइयां आती हैं। उन कठिनाइयों को कैसे दूर किया जाए? हमने ‘इको पार्क’ भी बनाया है। ‘इको पार्क’ बनाकर हमने उस जंगल की पूरी सुरक्षा करने का काम किया है। मैं चाहता हूं कि ऐसे जितने भी पार्क्स हों, वहाँ वे मध्य प्रदेश में हों या देश के किसी दूसरे राज्यों में हों, उनके संरक्षण के लिए अगर कुछ विशेष प्राधिकृत इस एट के माध्यम से हो सके या फिर एट के बाद नियमों को बनाने समय माननीय मंजी जी अपने विभाग का ध्यान आकृष्ट करेंगे तो मुझे लगता है कि इन वन्य जीवों के संरक्षण और सुरक्षा में बहुत बढ़ी मदद हो सकती है।

महोदय, मैं इस बिल का पूरी तरह से समर्थन करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

(इति)
1636 बजे  
श्री हनुमान बेनिवाल (नागौर): सभापति महोदय, सदन में आज, जीव (संरक्षण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2021 पर चर्चा हो रही है।... (व्यवस्थापन)

हमारे मंत्री जी राजस्थान से आते हैं, यह हमारे लिए सीमांक के बात है। वे राजस्थान के ऊपर विशेष ध्यान देंगे। राजस्थान के अंदर बहुत संभावनाएं हैं। जीव संरक्षित क्षेत्र बदलने की संभावनाएं हैं। राजस्थान का भू-भाग बहुत बड़ा है। इसकी ओर आप विशेष ध्यान दें।

महोदय, विधेयक के 'उद्देश्यों और कारणों के कथन' में लिखे अनुसार यह विधेयक जीव संरक्षण कानून, 1972 में संशोधन के लिए लाए जा रहा है। में बताना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार के सबसे बड़े जीव विज्ञान वाले के बैठकों में से एक है। मैं सरकार से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि संरक्षित जीवों के खिलाफ एक अपराध या उल्लंघन के मामले में जुर्माना राशि बढ़ाने से बड़ा सुधार आएगा, लेकिन कानून में कटोरतम सजा और प्रकरण त्वरित आरंभिक भी जरूरी हैं। मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए यह बताया चाहता हूँ कि आई.सी.यू.एन. के अनुसार संकटप्राप्त प्रजातियों की 'लाल सूची' में भारत में पाई जाने वाली 239 जीवों की प्रजातियाँ लुमप्राय हैं, जिनमें स्तनधारियों की 45 प्रजातियाँ, पक्षियों की 23 प्रजातियाँ, सरीसृप की 18 प्रजातियाँ, उभयचरों की 39 प्रजातियाँ और मछलियों की 114 प्रजातियाँ शामिल हैं। मेरे राजस्थान के राज्य पक्षी गोडावर के प्रजाति भी लुमप्राय होने के हैं, जो विचारकों है।

मंत्री महोदय, अप राजस्थान के अन्दर यह देखते होंगे। आप भी वहीं से आते हैं, हम भी वहीं से आते हैं। आज से 35-40 साल पहले की बात है। आज बच्चे हुआ करते थे, स्कूल में पढ़ते थे। गांव के अन्दर जब कोई पशु मरता था तो गिद्दा अपने आप आते थे और उस मरे पशु का मांस वे खाते थे और इससे किसी तरह की दुर्गंध नहीं फैलती थी। पर, आज हमारी इस बात का है कि पशु मरते रहते हैं और उन्हें उठाने, बचाने नहीं होता। इससे हाहाकार मच जाता है, दुर्बल फैल जाती है। गिद्दा भी धीरे-धीरे लुप होते जा रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

मैं आज सुपह एक डिजिटल पत्रिका पढ़ रहा था। उसमें संकटप्राप्त और लुमप्राय प्रजातियों को लेकर डायरेक्टोर ऑफ रेस्यू केंद्र इंटेलिजेंस (डी.आर.आई.) की वर्ष 2019-20 की एक रिपोर्ट के हवाले से यह लिखा गया कि भारत में भी संकट प्रति प्रजातियों का बढ़ता अवैध व्यवहार विचारजनक है। इसके लगातार बढ़ने को लेकर भी गहरी चिंता है। उसमें व्यक्त की गई मंत्री जी, जीव प्रेमी और ऐसे मामलों को लेकर लिखे वाले कई लोग चिंतित हैं। एक प्रतिष्ठित भाषण ने मुझे दिनांक 18 दिसंबर, 2021 को 'द टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया' की एक खबर के हवाले से बताया कि महाराष्ट्र के कुछ इलाकों से हाथियों को रिलायण्स (अंबानी) द्वारा संचालित राष्ट्रीय कृष्णा टेपल एलिफेंट वेलफेयर ट्रस्ट के सूचिर्दिक दिया गया। इसी खबर में बताया गया है कि रिलायण्स ने जम्मू-कश्मीर, गुजरात में चारिप्स अपनी रिफाइंसर के नजदीक 280 एकड़ क्षेत्र में एक चिड़ियाघर बनाया है, जहां जीवों की कई प्रजातियों का प्रबंधन किया जा रहा है। इसलिए जीवित हाथियों के ट्रांसपोर्टेशन को वेध बनाने की पहल यह विधेयक कर रहा है।
हाथियों के विषय में इस प्रस्तावित कानून के प्रवाहण अंतर्वेदों के संरक्षण की दिशा में हुई प्रमति को मिटा देने जरूर हैं। इस समव्य में जब आप ज्ञाप दे तो स्थिति को जरूर स्पष्ट करें कि कोई भी किसी भी हालत में किसी तरह का अवैध परिवर्तन न करे। यह आप बताएँ।

मंत्री जी, आपने जो संशोधन इस विषय में किया है, उसको लेकर कइ तरह की शकार हैं। आज लोगों का कहना है कि केंद्र सरकार ने लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के व्यापार पर रोक लगाने के अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रावधानों को लागू करने के नाम पर वन्य-जीव संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1972 में कई प्रकार के संशोधन पेश किए हैं और इसके कारण लाभ होने के बजाय वन्यजीवों के लिए बढ़ा खतरा उत्पनन हो सकता है। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि इससे हाथियों का व्यापार गुरुत्व हो सकता है और मौजूदा कानून के तहत लकड़बाब, लोमढी, सियार जैसे जानवरों को मिली सुरक्षा छीनी जा सकती है। नतीजतन, इन जानवरों की हत्या करने पर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं होगी और इनके चमड़ों के गैर कानूनी व्यापार में बदोलती होने की आशंका है। इसके साथ ही केंद्र के प्रस्तावित संशोधन के चलते राज्य राज्य जीव बोर्ड के करीब-करीब निश्चित हो जाने की आशंका जताई गई है। यह कहा गया है कि राज्य राज्य जीव बोर्ड की जगह छोटे दर्ज की समिति बनाने का प्रस्तावना किया गया है, जिसके पास न तो फैसले लेने की पैरामिंट शक्तियां होंगी और न ही ये जवाबदेह होगा।

इसे भी मंत्री जी जवाब देते हुए स्पष्ट करें कि इस विल के संदर्भ में जो जन आशाकर्षण है, उनका किस प्रकार आप निराशीकरण करने कि इस विल के प्रभावी होने के बाद ऐसी कोई स्थिति नहीं बनेगी जिसका जिक्र मैंने अभी किया है।

सम्पादन महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के प्रावधानों के अनुसार किसी भी स्टेट को वन भूमि पर खनन सहित गैर वन कार्यकलापों के लिए केंद्र की स्वीकृति जरूरी है। ऐसे में दिनांक 31 मार्च, 2022 तक विभाग दस वर्षों में राजस्थान में 145.45 हेक्टेयर और देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में 38,846.7 हेक्टेयर वन क्षेत्र में खनन के लिए अनुमोदन किया गया। वापसी राजस्थान सहित देश के सभी राज्यों में ऐसी दी गई अनुमति का रिच्यू करने के लिए एक टीम गठित करवाकर यह जाँच करवाने का विचार रखते हैं कि कहीं इस प्रकार दी गई अनुमति की आई वन क्षेत्रों में अनुमति से अधिक क्षेत्रफल में वन खनन नहीं हो रहा है और वन क्षेत्रों में खनन की समस्त गतिविधियों पर नामदेव लगाने को लेकर आपका व्यवहार है, यह आप अपने जवाब में जरूर बताएँ।

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please conclude.

(1640/MY/AK)

श्री हनुमान बेनिवाल (नागर): सम्पादन महोदय, राजस्थान के भरतपुर जिले में पहाड़ों को चबाने के लिए और अवैध खनन को रोकने के लिए संत्र विजयदास जी को आलग-आलग करना पड़ा। वहाँ उनकी मृत्यु हो गई और उनके द्वारा किये गए आंदोलन के दौरान स्वतंत्र और सीबीआई जांच की मांग उठी। उसके लिए सीबीआई जांच की मांग उठी। वहाँ कार्रवाई कर सकती है।

मंत्री जी, मैं आपकी ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूँगा। बाबा विजय दास जी ने वहाँ बलिदान दिया। आप जहां-जहां इंडी की कार्रवाई कर रहे हैं। इसलिए, आप वहाँ भी इंडी की कार्रवाई करना दीजिए। राजस्थान में कम से कम इंडी की कार्रवाई कम हुई है। हम चाहते हैं कि जो खनन माफिया, और मंत्री-विधायक उस क्षेत्र ले घन अजित किये, उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई हो। … (व्यवहार)
HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI A. RAJA): Please wind up. The time is over.

… (Interruptions)

श्री हनुमान बेनिवाल (नागौर): समाप्ति महादेव, मेरा लास्ट प्लाइट है। इकोलॉजी सिस्टम के लिए कन्या-जीवों व चेरो की जो महत्व है, उससे सब परिवर्तित है। राजस्थान के जोधपुर जिले के खेलजली में मां अंूंर्टा देवी बौडोइ के भूमित्व में 363 लोगों ने पशुविवशन की क्रांति के लिए बलिदान दिया, यह इतिहास जानता है।

सर, अब में अपनी बात समाप्त कर रहा हूँ। हमें फॉरेस्ट को बचाना है, लेकिन माइनिंग माफियाओं और होटल व्यापारियों के दबाव में आज वन क्षेत्र संकट में है। मेरे प्रदेश के तुर जिले के स्थित तालवाणर अभ्यारण में सीन्हा जाय थे, जिसे स्थान पर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ने इसका इको-संरचित जोन घटाना का फैसला किया, जिस पर माननीय उच्च न्यायालय ने संज्ञा लेकर स्टे किया। मंत्री जी इस पर भी ध्यान दें।

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The next speaker is Shri P. Ravindhranath.

… (Interruptions)

श्री हनुमान बेनिवाल (नागौर): सर, मेरी आखिरी बात है। मैं सिर्फ एक मिनट का समय लूंगा। राजस्थान में संरचित गोर्कर की भूमि को संरचित करने की आवश्यकता है। हमारी जिलनी गोर्कर भूमि है, उसे विकसित करने और अंगर की भूमि को संरचित करने की जरूरत है। उन्हें गौशालाओं के लिए आवंटित कर गो अभ्यारण बनाने की जरूरत है। जब टाइगर रिजर्व के लिए प्रावधान हो सकता है तो गायों की लिए क्यों नहीं हो सकता है। अभी गायों में लम्पी रिकन बीमारी मृत्यु हुई है। उस पर नियान्त्रण जरूरी है। आपके मंत्री श्री संजीव बालियार जी ने संज्ञा लिया है। हमें लिए तीन भी राजस्थान के अंदर भेजी है। गाय को राष्ट्र माता का दर्जा दिया जाए और उसको बचाया जाए। मंत्री जी, आप इसकी पहल राजस्थान से करें।

महादेव, मेरा ऊंट का एक लास्ट मामला है, जो मेरे राजस्थान का है। राजस्थान के अंदर ऊंट पाये जाते हैं। … (व्यवहार)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You already took seven minutes instead of five minutes. So many speakers are there, and the Minister has to reply.

श्री हनुमान बेनिवाल (नागौर): समाप्ति महादेव, मैं ऊंट के बारे में कह रहा था। आज ऊंट विलुप्त होते जा रहे हैं। इसे ज्वात पशु का दर्जा मिल गया, लेकिन ऊंट को कैसे बचाया जाए, इस पर विचार करना चाहिए। हमारे नागौर, फुकर में ऊंट के मेरे लगते थे। आप अजमेर से पढ़ कर आए हैं। हमें ऊंट को बचाना है। अपने उसे ज्वात पशु का दर्जा दे दिया, लेकिन आज नोगौर ने ऊंट पालना छोड़ दिया है। हमें ऊंट को बचाना है।… (व्यवहार)

(इतिः)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, nothing will go on record except Shri P. Ravindhranath.

… (Interruptions) … (Not recorded)
SHRI P. RAVIDHRANATH (THENI): Thank you Chairperson Sir for allowing me to speak in support of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.

Wild life conservation is ingrained in our ethos and has always been an integral part of our tradition and culture. I belong to Theni in Tamil Nadu, a District with nearly 36 per cent forest cover, which is much higher than the State’s average of 33 per cent. I am extremely delighted to support this Bill brought by our Government. I am a keen admirer of our hon. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav ji, who has always taken effort to promote futuristic, inclusive and sustainable development. I also wish to thank our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, who always emphasised the principle of climate justice aimed at providing a level-playing field to all communities across the world. Under Clause 30 of this Bill the Central Government will designate Management Authority that will grant permit for export or import for trade of specimens. This historic combination and coordination of administration and science by our NDA Government will certainly balance our wild life. 

Clause 13 of this Bill provides that the management plans for a sanctuary shall be prepared after due consultation with the concerned Gram Sabha. This noble and democratic plan of involving the Gram Sabha again comes from the idea of an inclusive India as set forth by our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji. Before I conclude, I would like to make a few submissions which I wish to place before the Government and the hon. Minister of Environment. Around 25,000 peaceful forest dwellers and people have been living in the areas under the Kadamalai-Mayilal Union, mainly the panchayats of Meghamalai, Varasanadu, Mayiladumparai, Kumanantholu, Thangamalpuram and other areas under the Meghamalai forest region for generations which comes under my Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu. Sir, these 25,000 brothers and sisters have lost their homes and livelihoods as a consequence of the erroneous, arbitrary, improper, and faulty inclusion of their dwelling places under Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary in 2009 and Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve in 2021 by different Government Orders. It has affected the right to life and livelihood of forest dwellers and the people of Meghamalai.
Sir, I sincerely support that wildlife should be preserved and protected, but at the same time, the fundamental right to life of forest dwellers and people living in forests must also be protected under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Sir, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the National Board for Wild Life to recommend alteration or de-notification of the area declared as a protected area. The Board is performing its duty very well, but due to the large size of the country and the population, it may not be possible for the Board to reach every affected person in the country. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister to allow every affected person to file complaints before the Board by extending its jurisdiction through this Bill, which would give the affected people, like my brothers and sisters of Meghamalai forest, an opportunity to receive justice from our Government that has always upheld justice for every section of the society.

Sir, in the public interest, I request you to kindly refer the Meghamalai forest subject to the National Board for Wild Life. The Board may consider recommending a detailed examination and appropriate scrutiny of the erroneous surveys that became the basis of notification of the concerned area of Meghamalai forest as a protected area. Sir, such an action will enhance the confidence and trust of the citizens in our Government. It will be an opportunity for the affected people to get back to their lost homes in the Meghamalai forest.

Sir, this Bill is a great step towards the protection and effective conservation of wildlife. So, I support this bill on behalf of my AIADMK party.

(ends)
1648 वर्षे

श्री जयदेव मिश्र (रीवा): समापति महोदय, आपने मुझे इस संशोधन विषयक पर चर्चा करने के लिए अनुमति प्रदान की, इसके लिए में आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं। वास्तव में यह विषयक इस बात का प्रमाण है कि हमारी सरकार अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समझौतों को लेकर और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय के समक्ष भारत की प्रतिष्ठा और उसका संकल्प परिलक्षित होता रहे, वह इस विषयक के माध्यम से परिलक्षित होता है। इस विषयक के माध्यम से सीआईटीईस, जो वन्य वनस्पतियों की लुप्त प्रजातियों और उसके अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार और अभिसमय, कंजर्वेशन एंड इंटरनेशनल ट्रेडिंग इन डेजर्स स्पीसीज ऑफ फलोर एंड फॉना, सरकारों के मध्य एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समझौता है, जो सुनिश्चित करता है कि वन्य पशुओं एवं फूलों के नमूनों में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार से प्रजातियों के अस्तित्व के प्रति संकट उत्पन्न न हो। इस आयार पर, इस विषयक में सीआईटीईस के तहत पशुओं और पशुओं के नमूनों को उनके विलुप्त होने के खतरे के आधार पर श्रेणियों में वर्गीकृत किया गया है। इस कंजर्वेशन से देशों को परमिट के माध्यम से सभी सूचीबद्ध नामों के व्यापार को विनियमित करने की आवश्यकता होती है। वन्य जीवों एवं वनस्पतियों की लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर उस्में भी जीवित पशुओं के नमूनों के स्वामित्व को विनियमित करने का प्रयास करता है। … (व्यवधान)

(1650/NK/UB)

श्री हनुमान बेनिवाल (नागोर): समापति महोदय, कोई कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर नहीं है।

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI A. RAJA): Please continue. The hon. Minister was sitting for more than three hours.

श्री जयदेव मिश्र (रीवा): महोदय, इसके वाहे ही नमूनों, व्यापार के आयार-निर्माण को परमिट प्रदान करता है। संलग्न प्रयोक्ति के लेनदेन के विवरण प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण को रिपोर्ट करना चाहिए। इसके अनुसार प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण के एक नमूने के लिए पहचान चिन्ह का उपयोग कर सकता है। वन्य जीव संरक्षण विषयक किसी व्यक्ति के नमूनों को पहचान विनिहत करने, संरक्षित या टाने में निर्धारित करता है।

इस विषयक के माध्यम से आक्रामक विदेशी प्रजातियों के आयार, व्यापार, स्वामित्व, प्रसारण, विनिमय अथवा प्रतिबंधित करने का अधिकार देता है। हमारे यहां एक गाजर घास नाम का एक विदेशी पौधा है। अभी गणेश सिंह जी कह रहे थे कि हमारे इलाके की तमाम छोटी-छोटी जड़ी-बुटियों विलुप्त हो गईं, एक विदेशी पौधा गाजर घास की बजह से विलुप्त हो गया। इस तरह की आक्रामक विदेशी प्रजातियों हैं। इस विषयक के माध्यम से इस पर रोक लगेंगी और हमारी जड़ी-बुटियां और वनस्पति पाद को संरक्षण और वृद्धि करने में सहयोग होगा। पर्यावरण और वन जीवों के जीवन पर कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा। किसी आक्रामक प्रजाति को जबत करने तथा उसका निपटारा करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार को अधिकृत करती है।
केन्द्र सरकार के दिशा निर्देशों के अनुसार युवा जीव संरक्षक द्वारा अनुमोदन के अनुसार तैयार किया जाएगा। इस विषय में सबसे बड़ी बात की गई है कि जनसंख्या समुदायों के माध्यम से उन क्षेत्रों का विकास होगा। इसके साथ ही वहां रहने वाले जो स्थानीय समुदाय के लोग हैं, वहां पानी की सुविधा का खेती में पूरा उपयोग कर सकेंगे।

इसके साथ ही में निवेदन करना चाहेगा, क्या जीवों के कारण पशुधन या मानव जीवन की हानि या कृषि की हानि होती है, हमारे यहां रोजाना सुअर और नीलगाय किसानों की फसल को नष्ट कर देते हैं, परंतु वन विभाग के कानून इसके मुआवजे और क्रिया को भरपाई के लिए उलझे हुए हैं। इन कानूनों की वजह से समुचित मुआवजा नहीं मिल पाता है। वह इतना अपराध है कि जो नुकसान होता है वह किसान को नहीं मिल पाता है।

मेरा केन्द्र सरकार से आग्रह है कि पूरे देश में एक समन्वय कानून बनाया जाए, एक स्पष्ट दिशा निर्देश हो कि इन क्षेत्रों पशुओं से किसानों को जो क्षति होती है या मनुष्यों को होती है, उसकी भरपाई शीघ्र से शीघ्र हो।

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

श्री जनार्दन गिरिश (रीवा): सभापति महोदय, इसके साथ ही रीवा के बारे में गणेश सिंह जी कह रहे थे कि हमारा सीमावर्ती जिला व्हाइट टाइगर सफारी है, जहां से व्हाइट टाइगर जिस इलाके से शुरू हुआ और पूरी दुनिया में फैला। अभी तीन व्हाइट टाइगर हैं, लेकिन उनकी प्रजनन क्षमता के कारण कोई नये शावक ने जन्म नहीं लिया है। उसकी जाूंच कराई जाए कि क्या कारण है कि नर-मादा होने के बावजूद भी नये शावक जन्म नहीं ले रहे हैं, इसका अनुसंधान कराया जाए। इस तरह की पारिस्थितिकी दी जाए, दो युवा नर-मादा व्हाइट टाइगर रीवा, मुकुदपुर टाइगर सफारी को प्रदान किया जाए। उनकी संख्या में वृद्धि कैसे हो, इसका परामर्श करके संख्या वृद्धि का प्रयास किया जाे। आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

(इति)
लाइफ
इसके कन्ज़
पूरा हाकसल
(1655/SK/KMR Treaty obligation. Convention on Internation
कशरकत श्री
02 -
बना खतरा
बात के, महीने चली एक अलावा, इसके एक, गईूं एररया है।
सैलरी का कलए सैलरी है।
कैसे प्रायस नहीं कर रहे हैं, कोशिश नहीं कर रहे हैं, कोई संजीवा कोशिश नहीं कर रहे हैं
कहूंगा। यहाँ दादिगाम नेशनल पार्क है, बाल्रुप्प लाइफ पार्क है।
इसके पास छ: के करीब सीमेंट फॉर्ट्रेज हैं, जो हजारों टन पार्ल्यूटेंट्स हवा में डालती हैं, यह नेशनल पार्क इससे मुख्तार हो रहा है। The national park is home to an endemic species there. यह हांगुंट के नाम से जाना जाती है। यह सिवाय दादिगाम नेशनल पार्क के सारी तुफान में कही नहीं जाती है। अब आप कानून तो बना रहे हैं, लेकिन कोई प्रायस नही कर रहे हैं, कोशिश नहीं कर रहे हैं, कोई संजीवा कोशिश नहीं कर रहे हैं।
क्योंकक हो नाम में तक का है। उनके के कई काम नहीं किया जा रहा है। अपने डश्त आर्ट से कहीं रही के कहीं डालती है। इसके अलावा गेंहु उनके द्वारा एनलायन एन एक्सिमनल कन्फलिक्ट से सामना करना है।
प्रोफेसर नाम होगी।
एक और बाट है। हमारे इलाके में अवस्थीतियों से खतरा तक कई स्टोन क्वाइजरीज थी, जिन्हें बंद किया गया है, तथापि उनकी रिक्षिलिटेशन के लिए कोई काम नही किया जा रहा है। अपने डश्त आर्ट से कहीं रही के कहीं डालती है। ये नेशनल पार्क के साथ बाल्रुप्प लाइफ कन्फलिक्शन पर रहने।
एक और बाट है। हमारा फोकस रहा है कि रिक्षिलिटेशन पैकेज दीजिए। अपा के लाइफ कन्फलिक्शन के कन्फलिक्षन में इंटरस्ट है और हॉमन काउंड में इंटरस्ट है। एक और अच्छी बात है, अब हमारा फोकस रहा है कि रिक्षिलिटेशन पैकेज दीजिए। आप ने सेवशन 43 पर नजर डाली जाए क्योंकक उसके बाद ही ये कन्फलिक्षन एड्रेस करें।
इसके अलावा कई लोग बाल्रुप्प लाइफ के कन्फलिक्षन में काम कर रहे हैं। उनके वेजिजर करीब एक साल से पंडित्ह है। वे आये आर्ट करेंगे? वे बाल्रुप्प लाइफ के प्रोटेक्शन के लिए हैं, कन्फलिक्षन के लिए हैं। वे बाल्रुप्प लाइफ डिपार्टमेंट का हिस्सा हैं, उन्हें तनख्वाह नहीं दी जा रही है। जो कन्फलिक्षन को रिज़ॉल्व करने के लिए हैं, प्रोटेक्शन के लिए हैं, उनके वेतन, सैलरी नहीं दी जा रही है।
मेरा मुताबिक, हम ने सेवशन 43 पर नजर डाली जाए क्योंकक उसके बाद ही ये कन्फलिक्षन पासिबल हैं।
(इति)
SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to state in this august House that the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 does not consider the ground realities and, therefore, it is against the interests of people residing adjacent to forests. We are all happy to protect our forests and wild life in its boundary, and I am sure nobody will oppose it.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, wild animals such as elephants, wild boars, poisonous snakes, tigers, and cheetahs, frequently come out from forests and cause harm to humans and domestic animals. Moreover, these wild animals destroy houses, properties, agricultural lands, and crops. Millions of people who live near forests are the victims of the attacks of these wild animals.

There is no mechanism to protect human beings, their livelihoods, and domestic animals from the attack of wild animals. This amendment also lacks a provision to protect people and domestic animals from wild animals. However, punishment is harsh for people who encounter wild animals, even as a part of self-defence. They have to undergo imprisonment for a period of seven years in such cases. In case of threat of a snake attack, the existing law gives us two options: get bitten and die poisonous and painful death, or we can kill the snake for self-defence and live the better half of our life in jail. This is the real situation right now.

Nowadays, the wild boars that come out of forests are entering the villages up to 40 kilometres and are not going back to forests. They destroy the agricultural crops and kill several farmers in my constituency itself. Kerala is a State that protects 100 per cent of its greenery. At the national level, the total area of forest land is 22 per cent, whereas in Kerala the forest land is around 30 per cent. Furthermore, plantations contribute to extending the green canopy. Kerala’s forests and plantations cover 53 per cent of its total territory. Thus, the farmers serve as the guardians of greenery in Kerala. However, this Bill does not seek to protect the people, especially the farmers in Kerala.

The recent order of the hon. Supreme Court has declared that a minimum distance of one kilometre of land shall be included as Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the National Parks, Wild life and Bird Sanctuaries in the country.
If this order is implemented, it will adversely affect the normal life of common man and farmers in the State of Kerala who are settled within the above limit of land since several decades. It is very sad to say that this judgment is there with the support of our Government of Kerala.

Wild animals should live in the forest. Do not allow them to come out of the forest. Protect them in the forest. They may not be allowed to enter the villages, which is a threat to human life. Developed countries like USA have taken measures to control wild animals and their growth to protect people from their attacks.

Hence, I request the Government to kindly withdraw this Bill and replace it with a comprehensive one that has provisions to protect human beings from the attack of wild animals. I also would like to take this opportunity to request the Government to initiate the necessary measures to avoid human-wildlife conflict. Preserving wild life does not mean that the law in itself should be wild which threatens human life.

Thank you, Sir.

(ends)
KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA (TURA): Thank you hon. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important amendment Bill, namely the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021. The Centre has proposed an amendment to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to enforce provisions of an international convention to prevent trade in endangered species. But the changes which it intends to introduce in the existing law may by default do more harm than good as certain experts have flagged how it would allow commercial trade in live elephants and even reduce the protection of certain species such Asiatic Jackal, Striped Hyena and Bengal Fox. The Bill, which was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for further examination, seeks to amend the existing Act for better implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It proposes to rationalize various Schedules of the law to fulfil India’s international obligation for the sake of protection of wild animals, birds, and plants. On the positive side, it is intended to ensure that provisions with respect to the Convention are part of the domestic law. Besides, the Bill aims to also make the law simple by streamlining the Schedules. However, there are certain issues which need to be addressed. The existing Act specifically prohibits the trade in wild animals including captive and wild elephants. But an exception has been carved out in the Bill by excluding live elephants from the general prohibition contained in Section 43. The implication of the same is that the commercial sale and purchase is no longer prohibited under the Act.

Clause 27 proposes to permit the commercial trade of elephants, legalising the elephant trade for the first time in 50 years, which is a very dangerous and regressive move. It also permits the commercial display of trophies, and captive animals, and even permits the transfer or transportation of animals, trophies, and animal articles. Sir, I would humbly request the hon. Minister to reconsider this Clause, and not legalise the trade in live elephants.

Sir, the Bill also has provisions of ‘excessive delegation and unrestricted power of the Central Government to declare species as vermin’, unlike the existing law. Once a wild animal is declared as vermin, it enjoys no legal protection, and has the same status as a domestic animal. It can be killed, traded, and tamed.
Species such as Civets, Common Fox, Jackal, Martens, Andaman Wild Pig among others, cannot be declared as vermin under the Act, in view of the statutory protection. However, the Bill amends Section 62 by stating that only species listed in Schedule I cannot be declared as vermin, while species listed in Schedule II can be declared as vermin. Schedule II in the Bill includes the Striped Hyena, Andaman Wild Pig, Indian Fox, Bengal Fox, Jungle Cat, and Asiatic Jackal among other species, which if declared as vermin can pose serious threat to their existence in the wild.

We live in a time where we are threatened by climate change and ecological devastations. It is a time when more species must be included in Schedule I. Instead, the opposite might happen, which will endanger a number of species. So, I would request the hon. Minister to reconsider this particular provision.

There are also apprehensions that the State Board for Wildlife would be rendered defunct by the proposed amendment. It is said that the Bill intends to replicate the model of the National Board for Wildlife, and its Standing Committee. It is pertinent to point out here that the National Board for Wildlife, headed by our hon. Prime Minister, has not met since 2014. At present, the State Boards, by virtue of their composition, are still able to speak in the interest of wildlife. This will no longer be the case once the Standing Committee of the Board is constituted.

On a positive note, I would like to say that there is one amendment which talks about better management of protected areas. This is a very welcome amendment. I hope that it includes the elephant corridors, because my State of Meghalaya has several elephant corridors which are not yet mapped. I hope, when you are saying that the amendment will improve the management of protected areas, it would include better mapping of corridors, and better management so that the human-wildlife conflicts that take place are also drastically reduced. With these few words, I would conclude my speech.

(ends)
1709 बजे
श्रीमती नवनीत रवि राणा (अमरावती) : समापति महोदय, आपने मुझे वन्य जीव (संरक्षण) संशोधन विज्ञापन 2021 पर बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

समापति जी, मैं आपको यह बताना चाहूंगी कि आज गांव और शहर में घने जंगल क्षेत्रों को काटकर रिहाई बनाने की जरूरत है, जिसके कारण जंगल प्रभावित हो रहा है। जंगली प्राणियों का क्षेत्र का कम होता जा रहा है। महाराष्ट्र राज्य में मेलघाट सबसे बड़ा घना जंगल क्षेत्र है, जो मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र अमरावती का एक भाग है तथा गढ़वाली, यवतमाल, चंद्रपुर, ये सभी टाइगर रिजर्व एयरिया हैं। मेलघाट परिसर में जो टाइगर रिजर्व एयरिया हैं, छोटे-छोटे गांवों में आदिवासियों की एक बड़ी आबादी है। वे खेतीबाड़ी का काम करने जंगल में ही अपने परिवार के साथ रहते हैं और उनका पालन-पोषण करते हैं।

समापति जी, मेरी आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह बिनती है कि जल्द से जल्द उल्लिखित आदिवासी गांव के मेलघाट टाइगर रिजर्व एयरिया के अंदर आएं, तो वहाँ के जंगली प्राणियों को भी सुरक्षा मिल पाए।। गांवों के लोगों पर लगातार शर्म, भालू और चीते हमले करते रहते हैं। कई बार धूल भी हो जाती है, जिससे लोगों की जान भी चली जाती है, उस पर भी रोक लगाने के लिए मर्यादामंडल में जो नियामक उत्तरदाता है, उस के लिए खेतीबाड़ी का काम करने जंगल में ही अपने परिवार के साथ रहते हैं और उनका पालन-पोषण करते हैं।

(1710/YSH/PS)

समापति जी, मैं फॉरेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट से एक विनती और करना चाहती हूँ। ये पुनर्वास करते हैं। ये पुनर्वास के लिए गांव वालों से अपील करते हैं कि यह यहां से हट जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह टाइगर रिजर्व एयरिया में आता है। मैंने फर्स्ट लाख रुपये दिए जाते हैं। आज के समय में अगर उनका 10 लाख रुपये में पुनर्वास किया जाता है तो वे शहरों में जाकर 10 लाख रुपये में कया कर सकेंगे। मैं फॉरेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट से विनती करती हूँ कि क्योंकि उसे बढाकर 20 लाख रुपये कर जाए, जिससे वे अपने परिवार को एक सुरक्षित जगह पर ले जाकर घर बना सकें और वहां पर वे आराम से रह भी सकें।

समापति जी, वाइल्ड एनिमल्स के वेरिएंट्स भी कम हो रहे हैं। यह जिता का विषय है। इस पर भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए। जंगल से लगे खेतों में किसान खेतीबाड़ी करते हैं, उन्हें वाइल्ड एनिमल्स से बचाने के लिए भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए। मैं एक और विनती करता हूँ। हम वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन के लिए यह जो बिल ला रहे हैं, उसका सितम्बर, 1972 में इम्प्लीमेंटेशन हुआ था। उसके बाद इसमें बहुत सारे अमेजिंग लाए गए थे। आज वाइल्ड एनिमल्स के कारण जंगली एरिया के आस-पास जिंदगी भी खतरे हैं, उन पूरे के पूरे खेतों को रात में वाइल्ड एनिमल्स नष्ट कर देते हैं और उस कारण से हमारे किसान भाइयों को जो नुकसान होता है, उसके लिए उनकी मदद कौन करेगा? हम मानते हैं कि वाइल्ड एनिमल्स को बचाना चाहिए। हम इस बिल को सपोर्ट करते हैं, लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ जंगल के एरिया के आस-पास भी जिंदगी है। चीते ही खतरे हैं, उन्हें बचाने का भी प्रावधान हमारे डिपार्टमेंट को लाना चाहिए। मैं डिपार्टमेंट से यह मांग करती हूँ।
HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI A. RAJA): Please conclude.

SHRI A. RAJA: Hon. Chairperson, I have mentioned that we have problems in various areas such as Ajanta, Chop Dadha, Chandur, Chandrapur, Chikhaldara, Janargadh, Dariyapur, and Paratwada. In all these areas, we have issues that are affecting our brothers.

As the President of the Maharashtra police department, under the umbrella of all the police stations, the forests are being crossed. There is a need to conduct a campaign in the forests as well, because many jungle animals are coming on the road, which can lead to accidents.

Apart from that, I would like to ask that we should declare these areas as forest areas. The water problem is causing difficulties in all the villages, as well as the roads, which can lead to tension. Therefore, I request you to fulfill the request that I have made, so that we can conduct the investigation in the presence of the department's officers.

(End)
SHRI SURESH PUJARI (BARGARH): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me the permission to speak on the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I will be speaking in support of the Bill. This is a much-awaited Bill as most of the provisions of the earlier Act have become ineffective and redundant under the premise that the crimes against wild animals in India and particularly in Odisha, are on the rise. The crimes against wild animals are manifold in our society. Every now and then, the number of wild animals in our country is getting reduced primarily because of four reasons. The most shocking among all the reasons are poaching and poisoning, including deaths caused due to electrocution and run over by trains in India. Therefore, we need a comprehensive set of rules and regulations with biting teeth to protect the wild animals in India. In addition, we need to set up more national parks and wildlife sanctuaries across the country. In my constituency there is a wildlife sanctuary called Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, which covers an area of 346 square kilometre. I request the hon. Minister to bring about improvement in the said sanctuary.

Sir, I am talking about crimes against animals. The Times of India recently reported that on 25th July, half-burnt bones of an elephant were recovered by the Special Task Force of Crime Branch of Odisha in Sambhalpur Forest Division’s Dhama Forest Range.

(1715/SMN/SPS)

As briefed to the media by the DIG, the big pieces of bones were recovered from the forest. Ashes were recovered from another area. Again, on June, 2021, an elephant died due to bullet injury in the Sambalpur division as reported again in The Times of India in which before its death, the Jumbo remained stuck in a pond in Samplahara village for five days. The post-mortem revealed that the animal had suffered from multiple organ failure, caused infection followed by the bullet injury.

Odisha has been witnessing steep rise in the instances of crime against wild animals which is evident from the seizure of leopard skin by the State Task Force at Bolagarh in Khordha district which is very near to Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha.
On 18th January, 2022, *The Hindu* reported that the State Task Force had seized four leopards’ skin. So, the crime against the wild animal is also on the rise. It is needless to mention here that in the special drive launched in 2020 by the State Task Force, 25 leopards’ skin were seized, 13 elephants’ tusk were seized, seven deers’ skin was seized, and nine live pangolins were also seized. So, the crime is increasing day by day.

In this connection, being a lawyer, I am very much concerned with this. The crime rate is increasing and the conviction rate is decreasing day by day. It is because of lack of training by the forest officials. It is because of lack of training by the police officials. It is also because of lack of use of technology etc. as a result of which the crime rate against the wild animals is decreasing day by day. So, my appeal to the hon. Minister of Forest is that proper training should be imparted to the police officials and to the forest officials. Technology should be used as evidence because animals cannot keep evidence against another animal like human beings. So, they do not have witnesses unless technology is used. … (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI A. RAJA): Please conclude now.
SHRI SURESH PUJARI (BARGARH): I am concluding now Sir.

Finally, can we not change the Evidence Act in the event of possession of any skin or anything from the house of a person? Can we not shift the onus of proof to the accused person instead of holding for the prosecution?

With this, I welcome the Bill. This is a landmark Bill and this will help in protection of wild life in the entire country.

Thank you, Sir.

(ends)
SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Thank you, Sir, for giving an opportunity to participate in the discussion on ‘The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.

Sir, the Bill was introduced with many significant changes to which the Standing Committee has done a very good job by making it better. The Standing Committee lays down principles to implement the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna and also for the protection of the native Indian gene pool.

It has also rightly pointed out the issue of rationalising the Schedules which should be looked upon by the Government and should be thoroughly revised. The creation of a State Board for Wildlife is also a welcome step but the constitution of the Board should be balanced and concerned to the agenda of the Committee.

Sir, I have to mention a matter which has already been mentioned by many of the hon. Members here.

(1720/SNB/RAJ)

The issue is regarding human-animal conflict in the State of Kerala. This problem is not just only in Kerala but in all parts of the country. The suggested measures are not sufficient to settle the issue of human-animal conflict. This has to be settled because population of animals has multiplied in such numbers that they cannot live within the forest limits. They come out of the forests and attack the settlements; they attack the farmers; they attack the farms. During the last 10 years, more than 1300 farmers have been killed because of these attacks. It is all good that we should protect the animals, especially, the wild animals. But article 21 of the Constitution guarantees Right to Life for every Indian. The life of humans also needs to be protected. While protecting the lives of the animals, we have to protect the lives of the human beings also. My humble request to the hon. Minister is to come out with some legislation in order that the life of humans and farmers are protected. The people of Kerala have been demanding this for long. All the hon. Members from Kerala who have spoken today has mentioned about this problem in our State. My humble request is that the hon. Minister should look into this matter.
Sir, the Government of Kerala has requested the hon. Minister in person that wild boar should be declared as vermin. But no decision has yet been taken by the Government in this regard. The population of wild boar is multiplying in great numbers. This point has been mentioned earlier. They are coming up to 40 to 50 kilometres away from the forest limit and they are attacking the farmers and farms. So, wild boar should be declared as vermin.

HON. CHAIRPERSON (SHRI A. RAJA): This point has been mentioned by so many hon. Members. Now, I will call the next hon. Member.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Sir, I will finish in just a minute. On the decision of the Supreme Court on buffer zone, the Government of Kerala has already requested the Government of India to put forward before the Supreme Court an affidavit stating that the settlements and farmlands will be excluded from the buffer zone. I would request the Government to take up that matter.

Thank you.

(ends)
1723 hours

*DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (CHIDAMBARAM): Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. This Bill has been amended and brought before this House for protecting wild life. Is this Government showing concern in protecting forests and the tribals living in forests? This is a big question mark.

There is a legislation to have 33 per cent of forest cover in the total land available with us. It is a matter of great concern that 33 per cent forest cover is not available in many of the States of our country. This is the reason for human-animal conflicts. We witness incidents of leopards, lions, elephants etc. entering into the human habitat. The reasons behind these are that the forest cover is not maintained at 33 per cent, besides encroachment being made by humans in the areas where animals are supposed to live. These are the reasons stated by experts.

The resolutions passed at the international Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species are included in this Bill as amendments. The amendments brought to this Bill give us a feeling of pain and suffering. Particularly the elephants have to be protected. But this amendment allows to sell and buy elephants commercially. If you are allowing through this Bill to buy and sell elephants on commercial basis, how will you protect the elephants?

As per the survey taken in the year 2012, 30,000 elephants were found to be in India at that time. This constituted almost 60 percent of the elephant population in Asia. In South India there is a sizeable population of elephants. But as per the survey taken in the year 2017, this number has gone down to 27000 elephants. We have just lost 3000 elephants.
Elephants are killed due to accidents of electrocution because of electric fencing and mowing down by running trains. Other than this, these elephants are also killed by hunters for taking away their tusks. As the killing of elephants has increased, this Government should be determined to protect the elephants. Whereas, through an amendment to this Bill, it is allowing to sell and buy elephants for commercial purposes. This is really shocking. I urge upon the Government that this particular section of the Bill should be removed.

Another amendment should be made to this Bill. Till now when the State-level Committees were set up, volunteers working with NGOs, wildlife activists were appointed as members of this Committee. But now this Bill has ensured appointment of only Government Officials to this Committee. The Standing Committee of Parliament has already recommended for appointing wildlife activists to be appointed as members of this Committee. The Bill has to be accordingly amended so as to remove the section granting permission to buy and sell elephants. Wild life activists should be included in the Committees.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take back this Bill and after making amendments it shall be submitted again in this House for its consideration and passing.

Thank you.
चाहिा तछछोराझार तक जंगलों करिे और उन्हें लगभग कुछ तजिनी डॉ. 0208 रही कोई आउट 2022 बजे में कंरीब्यूशन बहुि इसी मेरा गंभीरिा असम नक्स, रीच परसेंट लोग में लगभग, रखना उनकी सभापति पर तलतमटेि एक्स्टेंिेिे झील बहुि तकया को तहन्दुस्िान से तिब्रूगढ़ देना लगभग नहीं है। यह तक गया (सबसे इन्फेस्टेि वजह कहीं तक), अनुसार होना कमेटी का अन्य माननीय क्रूि लाया, जो एक्स्टेंिेिे है।

इसी प्रकार से, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वाइल्ड लाइफ में जो सॅक्चुअरीज हैं, जिसके तहत लगभग एक हजार प्रोटेक्टेड एरियाज हैं, वहाँ पर गाइड्स को पुलिस के स्टर पर पावर देनी चाहिए, उन्हें इविंप्लेज देना चाहिए और अन्य सुविधाएं भी देनी चाहिए। वहाँ धड़ल्ले से पोशिंग होती है और फॉरेस्ट में जितने भी नेचुरल रिसोर्स्ज हैं, उनकी भी चौरियाँ होती हैं। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव उनको रोकने के लिए है।

वाइल्ड लाइफ टूरिज्म बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। आज से पाँच साल पहले ग्लोबल जीडीपी में उसका कंट्रीज्यूशन लगभग 120 बिलियन डॉलर था और लगभग 22 मिलियन लोग उससे जीवन सीकर करते थे। हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में भी यह 15 परसेंट की सफाईर से हर साल बढ़ता जा रहा है। इसलिए इसको बहुत ही गंभीरता से लेना चाहिए और हर कमेटी में वहाँ के जानकार एनर्जीमैन्टस्ट, नेचुरलिस्ट्स हैं, ऐसे साइंटिस्ट्स को कमेटी में रखना चाहिए। इसके अलावा, जो एनजीओज इस क्षेत्र में काम करते हैं, अगर कहीं पर होटल्स के लोग बिजनेस करते हैं, तो उनको भी उस कमेटी में रखना चाहिए।

एक लोग बनाया गया है कि 80 परसेंट फॉरेस्ट बन्द रहेंगे। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ है कि कई जंगलों में नक्सलीएट इन्फेस्टेड एरिया हो गए हैं और वहाँ जंगलों में धड़ल्ले से टाइगर्स की पोशिंग हो रही है। एक सरकारी आंकड़े के अनुसार लगभग सवेरे ज्यादा टाइगर्स मिलते हैं। मेरी विवेचन है कि कोई भी एरिया रिस्ट्रेक्टेड नहीं होना चाहिए, बल्कि शुलेडिअंट्ज टूरिज्म होना चाहिए।

सर, बिहार में सबसे कम फॉरेस्ट हैं। वहाँ पर छिछोराझार जंगल है और कुछ झील हैं, जिनमें कछुदा, मारामांदी झील हैं, मंत्री जी से आयह करना चाहता हूँ कि इनको भी डेवलप किया जाए।

बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

(इति)
SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (SANGRUR): Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister and the Government that we are not doing anything to preserve certain species like the household sparrows, the vultures, and the bustards.

What are we going to do to preserve these common birds and species? Secondly, Sir, there is a conflict between man and forest. Our tribals live in the forests. But we are exploring mines and exploiting the jungles. With the result, the tribals are suffering and their way of life has been disturbed. They have been dubbed by the Government as ‘Naxalites’ or ‘Maoists’ and they have been shot dead in extra judicial murder.

The Maharaja of Bastar who was fighting for the tribals was also shot dead by the security forces. We want to know the cause as to why the tribals are being dubbed as Naxalites or Maoists and are being shot. Will the Minister restrict mining of minerals in the forests? The tribals are worshippers of nature and they have been converted into certain other religions which is against the ethos of the religions in India.

Now, the Government is also bringing Cheetahs in the wildlife sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh. But the sanctuary which they have chosen, experts say, is too small for the Cheetahs to survive. We would like the hon. Minister to tell us something about this.

Sir, in this Parliament, I have observed both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha that ... *(Expunged as ordered by the Chair)* Will the Government do something about that?

(ends)
KUMARI GODDETI MADHAVI (ARAKU): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.

On behalf of YSR Congress Party, I would like to appreciate the Government’s efforts for the implementation of CITES. The Bill aims to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora in order to prevent any threat to the extinction of the species. The Bill provides for the designation of a management authority which grants the export or import permits for trade of specimens and a scientific authority which gives advice on aspects related to the impact on the survival of the specimens being traded, thus bringing us under a global agreement, and is, therefore, a welcome provision.

Sir, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some of the successful efforts undertaken by our State Government towards wild life conservation. The number of tigers in the State has seen a rise from 47 per cent in the year 2018 to 75 per cent in the year 2022 with 64 tigers in Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve, 9 tigers in Seshachalam corridor and 2 tigers in Papikondalu. It has been done through the process of taking census with a more scientific method employing drones and cameras. We are all proud to have the country’s largest tiger reserve NSTR in Andhra Pradesh, which is spread over 3,727 square kilometres.

We have also started the first blackbuck survey. The Andhra Pradesh State Wild Life Department has started the first-ever survey for blackbuck along a stretch of islands in the Godavari between Dowleswaram and Yanam with the goal of drawing up a conservation plan to protect the endangered species.

Sir, we also have a nodal officer for animals. In Vijayawada, to prevent cases pertaining to cruelty against animals, the NTR District police have appointed a Circle Inspector as a nodal officer to protect animals. People may contact the officer to register complaints pertaining to cruelty against animals or cases of smuggling.

So, I would conclude my speech by expressing our party’s support for this Bill. Thank you.
1736 hours

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to speak on this Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill. The Bill had already gone to the Standing Committee, and the Report was submitted in April this year.

This is a very comprehensive omnibus Bill with almost 150 pages. I do not know but if this Bill could be subsumed into the Biodiversity Act, it would have been better because in one Bill, we could have covered the whole problems of biodiversity. Why two Bills are there, I am not sure.

The Bill seeks to create a Management Authority and a Scientific Authority. My fear is that two more top heavy organisations are being made. In our country, for anything, we make a new organisation and then, we appoint certain people. Certain people are favoured. But actually, the problem is not solved.

I would submit to the hon. Minister that this is not the way to protect wild life. We have the Arabari Model in West Bengal which is taught to the environment students all over the country where the ideal villages and forest officers’ committee is formed. That has helped in preventing felling of trees, and also damage to the human habitation.

Now, Sir, I seek the protection of the hon. Minister because in our State, the problem is not that men are killing animals. In other States, yes, there are problems. There was one Sansar Chand, who made the whole Sariska Forest without any tiger. The whole tiger population was killed off. There are similar Sansar Chands like there was earlier Veerappan in Karnataka who killed off so many elephants for their tusks. We, in West Bengal, are under attack. Pratima Mondal is here. In her Constituency, every year, 50 to 100 people are injured, and at least 10 people killed by man-eating tigers in the Sundarbans.

Previously also, I had mentioned about the Sundarbans, but the Government has not announced any comprehensive policy on the lost mangrove forest of this sanctuary. Destruction of mangroves will lead to storms, and will ultimately touch the city of Kolkata. One needs to read Amitav Gosh to understand what is happening in the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve.

Sir, today, I must thank, in retrospect, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. She was the first person, who conceived the ‘Project Tiger’, and because of her, the tigers got saved.
I must also remember Salim Ali, the ornithologist who gave Indian birds a definition. But saying all this, I want to ask the hon. Minister directly what is he doing to prevent people from being killed by man-eating tigers in the Sundarbans.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you come from Ooty. You know, in Mudumalai, all these elephants are going around. If you go on the road from Ooty to Mysore, on the way, you would see so many elephants. But in your State, I do not know, how much damage they do. In West Bengal they descend from the Dalma Hills near Jamshedpur. Every year, they are entering the habitation areas. Once, they get some alcohol, that is, *mahua* which is kept by tribals, they go mad, and destroy property and kill human beings.

(1740/ KDS/RP)

Similarly, in North Bengal, in Alipurduar region, every year, they invade the houses of tea-garden labourers. They also drink mahua and kill people. So, what is the Minister’s reply in this respect? How can the Government protect the human beings from wild animals in West Bengal? It is because elephants are also being killed by Railways.

There are two Ministries. Engines are running directly into the herd of elephants. The elephants also follow the same route year after year but the Government has not announced any comprehensive plan to deal with this Railway menace which kills the elephants.

With that, Sir, I conclude my speech. Thank you very much.

(ends)
1741 बजे
श्री जसबीर सिंह गिल (खडूर साहिब): सभापति जी, आपने मुझे इस बिल पर बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

जंगली जीव और जंगल हमारे देश की धरोहर है। इनको संभालना और बढाना हमारा कर्तव्य है। मैं इस बिल पर ज्यादा नहीं बोलूंगा। मेरे कुछ बहुत महत्वपूर्ण संज्ञान हैं, जो में मंत्री जी को बताना चाहता हूं। उसके बाद मैं बैठ जाऊंगा।

सर, हमारे समस्त साइंस हैं, जहां पर कुछ ऐसे वीडें और पोशंग हैं, जो हमारे देश के नेटिव पोशंग नहीं हैं। जैसे कि एक अमेरिकन बीड है और एक मेकिन ग्रास है। पंजाब में कोई ऐसा जल स्रोत नहीं बचा हैं, जिसको इन्होंने प्रभावित न किया हो। आज मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि हमको सफ करना नामुंकिन होता है रहा है। ऐसे पोशंग, जो बाहर से आते हैं, उनको रोकने के लिए हमें कुछ न कुछ इंतजाम करना चाहिए।

सर, सरकार एथेनाल व्योंडिङ का बहुत बढ़ाया काम कर रही है। इस हेतु असम में पहली रिफाइनरी लग रही है। उस रिफाइनरी के लिए हमें 2 लाख टन बांस की जरूरत पड़ेगी, मगर मेरा निवेदन है कि बांस के जन्तन भी जंगल हैं, वे इस बजह से खत्म हो जाएंगे। कुछ करके अभी से यह काम शुरू किया जाए ताकि बांस की पैदावार को बढ़ाया जाए।

दूसरा, सभी स्टेट्स या सेंटर्स के पास फंड्स का अभाव है। बहुत कम फंड वाइल्ड लाइफ के लिए रखा गया है। हमारे यहां गाइड्स की कमी है, जिनके साथ कोई आदेश होता है। मेरा मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि हमारे यहां यूनिवर्सिटीज, कॉलेज और एनसीआई से। मेरे जैसे बहुत लोग हैं, जो वाइल्ड लाइफ के लिए पैशनेट हैं।

(व्यवहार)

(इति)

1743 बजे
डॉ. ढालसिंह बिसेन (बालाघाट): माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

मैं आज वन्य जीव संरक्षण संशोधन विधेयक, 2021 का समर्थन करते हुए कहना चाहता हूं कि मेरा राज्य मध्य प्रदेश गौरवशाली है कि वह टाइगर स्टेट कहलाता है। ... (व्यवहार) पेंच, कान्हा आदि टाइगर रिजर्व मध्य प्रदेश में हैं।

HON. CHAIRMAN (SHRI A. RAJA): Be brief.

डॉ. ढालसिंह बिसेन (बालाघाट): सर, अभी 29 तारीख को ही वैश्विक बांध उत्सव मनाया गया है। मुझे इस बात का गर्व है कि मध्य प्रदेश टाइगर स्टेट है और हमारे यहां बांधों की फाफ्दी अधिक संख्या है।

महोदय, मैं यह भी बताना चाहता हूं कि प्रकृति और वन्य जीवों का लोगों को ज्यादा ज्ञान हो, इस हेतु अपने स्टेट में जब में मंत्री था, तो मैंने 'मोगली उत्सव' आरंभ किया था, ताकि बच्चों तथा वन्य जीवों एवं प्रकृति के बीच सामंजस्य बना और उनको ज्ञान मिले। हम बच्चों के लिए अध्ययन की विकज तथा 4-5 दिनों का उत्सव भी मैनचल पार्क, पेंच में कराते हैं।
महोदय, मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि साइटिस के अंतर्गत हमारे देश की स्थिति कैसी है। संधि न होने के कारण अभी हम दूसरे दर्ज से हार रहे हैं। इस नियम के नहीं पारित होने के कारण यहां नियोजन नहीं हो पा रहा है। हम अभी केवल 200 प्रजातियों का नियोजन और 600 प्रजातियों का आयात करते हैं। लगभग 38 हजार 700 से ऊपर प्रजातियां हैं, जो इसके अंतर्गत आएंगी तथा जिसका भारत को लाभ मिलेगा। अभी जिस तरह से एक मानवीय सदस्य ने कहा कि विदेशी पौधे, जिन्हें नुकसान पहुँचता है, यह नियम पारित होने से जन पर भी रोक लगाने में मदद मिलेगी।

(1745/CS/NKL)

संस्थित क्षेत्रों का बेहतर प्रबंधन होगा और इसके कारण से जो नये क्षेत्र बन्ये जीवों के संरक्षण के लिए बनाए जाएंगे, उससे वहाँ के लोगों को रोजगार भी मिलेगा, उनको अवसर मिलेगा।

महोदय, मैं दो-तीन सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। मेरे बहुत आक्क ए मना आया है, मैं बहुत पहले अपना नाम दिया था। मैं स्थायी समिति भी बनेगी। अभी जहाँ पर नए अभ्यारण्य बनाए जाने हैं, वहाँ पर हमारे सीएम को, पीएम के बजाय हमारे सभापति के रूप में या अध्यक्ष के रूप में और उपाध्यक्ष के रूप में हमारे वन मंत्री होंगे, जिसके कारण हमें नए अभ्यारण्य बनाने या संचार बनाने में प्रदक्षिण नहीं आएगी।

महोदय, मैं एक सुझाव के रूप में कहना चाहता हूँ कि अभी जिस तरह से हमने सदन के अंतर्गत पशुओं की चराई और गृह बनाने के लिए पेयजल की सुविधा दी है, मैं मान्यक नीं जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि इसी धारा के अंतर्गत हमें रेत की निकासी भी लोगों को, जो हमारे बफर जोन के अंतर्गत हैं, उनको रेत की निकासी का अधिकार भी इसमें दे दे ताकि उन्हें अपना मकान बनाने में सुविधा मिल सके। (व्यवधान)

महोदय, मैं एक सुझाव के रूप में कहना चाहता हूँ कि अभी जिस तरह से हमने सदन के अंतर्गत पशुओं की चराई और गृह बनाने के लिए पेयजल की सुविधा दी है, मैं मान्यक नीं जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि इसी धारा के अंतर्गत हमें रेत की निकासी भी लोगों को, जो हमारे बफर जोन के अंतर्गत हैं, उनको रेत की निकासी का अधिकार भी इसमें दे दे ताकि उन्हें अपना मकान बनाने में सुविधा मिल सके। (व्यवधान)

(इति)
1746 hours

KUMARI RAMYA HARIDAS (ALATHUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

We know that protection of the lives of wild animals and also the nature is inevitable to preserve human life on the Earth. Even the Bill aims to protect the wild life. The issue related to human beings should also be addressed. The conflicts between wild animals and humans are very common in my Constituency. It is unfortunate that several people lost their lives in wild animal attacks. I would point out here that when we introduce such amendments, the protection and measures for safety of human beings should also be discussed and included in it.

Here, I would like to put forward the plea of the farmers of Kerala which they have been making for several years. The wild boar should be declared as ‘Vermin’.

Sir, the tigers and leopards are creating problems in several villages, including that of my Constituency. So, while we strengthen the law to protect wild life, we have to also consider the inhabitants of remote areas and implement measures to save human life in such villages.

When this Bill was introduced, the issue related to compensation of victims of wild animal attack was also discussed and included in it. Several people have died and some have been seriously wounded in wild animal attacks. Wild boars cause extensive damage to the crops of farmers in hillside. All these issues should be addressed. … (Interruptions)

I request here to include such measures to address the conflicts between wild animals and humans. Also, the provision of compensation for wild animal attack should be included in this Amendment Bill. The clear-cut provisions should be made in this Bill to solve the conflicts between human beings and wild animals.

Thank you.

(ends)
SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I rise to subscribe the view enshrined in the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.

Sir, verily, the legislative documents have defined six clear objectives in order to comply with the international agreement so that our domestic legislation could be complied with that commitment.

The first objective is to ensure that international trade in wildlife is legal, sustainable and traceable by implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The other objectives are, protection of native Indian gene pool, improved management of protected areas, improved care for seized and surrendered wild animals, ensuring deterrence by enhancing fines, and rationalising Schedules.

Sir, India is a treasure trove of wildlife species which include plants, animals, etc. India consists of 2.4 per cent of the world’s area. But we are having 8.8 per cent of all the recorded species in our country. It includes 91,000 animal species, 45,000 plant species, four biodiversity hot spots, in addition to hundreds of natural parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

(1750/VR/KN)

Sir, even our Constitution has recognized the sanctity of the animal life and it has suggested that all sorts of dignity should be provided to the wildlife protection in our country.

Sir, in spite of all this, I would like to put a few suggestions and also a little criticism in so far as the legislation is concerned, as the environmentalists have raised some apprehension and concern on this legislation. First of all, the Bill should have been opened for more time in order to garner the public views and criticisms which mean that these suggestions could have enriched the legislative document further. But this legislation has not given ample opportunity to the common people of our country, and specially the civil society. These kinds of concerns have been raised by the civil society itself.

Sir, there is another apprehension that has been depicted and the environmental community is perplexed as to why this reorganization is taking place, and on what basis the specific amendment has been introduced. Reorganization means lack of clarity over Schedule reorganization. The Government must clarify the criteria and protocols adopted.
The Government needs to adopt a transparent and scientific criterion such as the IUCN Red List which adopts criteria such as species distribution, population size, trends in population, habitat status and threat. Public consultations are also required to ensure scientific and transparent omission and inclusion in the new Schedule.

I do not know how much spending the Government has been doing on R&D for the wild life protection in our country. However, it is a very potential area that needs to be exploited by our talented population. I do not know how many meetings are being held by the National Board for Wildlife where our Prime Minister happens to be the Chairman.

Sir, in so far as animals being declared as vermin is concerned, to that point it has been suggested that the Bill may endanger 41 species of mammals, 864 birds, 17 reptiles and amphibians and 58 insects. This in turn may lead to ecological imbalance and impact local food chains. Experts have also recommended the need for a well-established scientific process for listing and delisting species as well as the need to specify permitted management measures rather than just direct lethal control.

Sir, again, on the issue of alien species, they can not only threaten biological diversity of the ecosystem but also have a large impact on human health, food security and economic growth.

Sir, Section 29 of the Bill is with regard to the use of water in sanctuary. Here, I would like to highlight that the Bill proposes that bona fide use of drinking and household water by local communities until they are settled shall not be deemed to be an act prohibited under this Section. However, the definition of such bona fide use must be clearly laid down ideally by the management plan to the respective sanctuary.

Sir, so far as Sundarbans is concerned, our hon. colleague, Prof. Sougata Ray also highlighted certain issues with regard to that. Before that, I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards a very important issue. देखिये, हमारे देश में नहीं, बल्कि सारी दुनिया में पहले ड्रॉस, ड्रॉस के बाद आम्स्ट, आम्स्ट के बाद ह्यूमन ट्रैफिकिंग और उसके बाद इल्लीगल वाइल्डलाइफ ट्रैफिकिंग सबसे बड़ी क्रिमिनल इनडस्ट्री है। इसमें ज्यादातर समुद्र के रास्ते से ये इल्लीगल ट्रेड होते हैं। इल्लीगल ट्रेड को रोकने के लिए आपके पास क्या जरीया है? हमें यह थोड़ा बताइये।
क्योंकि सारे हिंदुस्तान में, जितना बड़ा हमारा देश है, यह जो आप लेखिकाशण लाते हैं, मुझे यह शका है कि यह हमारे लिए काफी होगा कि नहीं given the magnitude and wider dimensions of this particular area. सर, जब तक सुंदरबंस का सवाल है, मैचोव ईकोसिस्टम के लिए सुंदरबंस सारी दुनिया में जाना जाता है। सुंदरबंस का दो तिहाई हिस्सा बांग्लादेश में है। यह सारा मैचोव ईकोसिस्टम है, इसमें दो किस्म की हानि होती है, एक तो एय्रीकल्चरल एक्सपेन्शन होते हैं दूसरी तस्वर मिचर्स एक्स्ट्रेक्शन होते हैं। आपके वहां जो दो किस्म के कानून हैं, मान लीजिए प्रोटेक्टेड एरिया है, उसकी देखभाल करने के लिए सेंद्रल गवर्मेंट है और जो इनहेबिटेंट हैं, जहां आम लोगों की आबादी है, वह देखने के लिए सुंदरबंस का रख-रखाव होते हैं? आप लोगों के बीच कोऑपरिएशन कैसे होते हैं? दूसरी बात यह है कि वर्ल्ड हेरिटेज सुंदरबंस को इनडेजर बताया जाता है। इसमें International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ने आपको क्या निदेश दिए हैं। क्योंकि सुंदरबंस दो तिहाई बांग्लादेश में है और वहां रामफल में एक कोल फायर प्लांट भी बन रहा है। इस विषय को ले कर क्या बांग्लादेश सरकार से आप लोगों की कोई बातचीत होती है? बांग्लादेश की प्रधान मंत्री आ रही हैं, क्या उनके साथ इस विषय पर कोई बातचीत होने की संभावना है?

सर, आपको यह दिखाया जाएगा कि यह मान्यता बांग्लादेश में मैन इंटर बाध्य के चलते सुंदरबंस विडोज कॉलोनी तो बन चुकी है। वहां हजारों की ताराम हैं विडोज अपनी जिंदगी की रास्ता को बेहतर करती हैं। सरकार किसी की देखभाल नहीं करती है। इसके साथ-साथ हमारे बांग्लादेश की हिल्स भारी खतरे के हालत में गुजर रही है। एफिबियन रेटाइल तो अलग बात है, लेकिन हिल्स भारी जो हिदुस्तान में ही नहीं पूरी दुनिया में सबसे स्वादिष्ट मछली है, उस पर भी सकट पैदा होता जा रहा है।

सर, इसलिए सुंदरबंस का रख-रखाव करने के लिए आपको टोस कदम उठाने चाहिए। ...

(व्यवधान)

(इतिहास)
1757 hours

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Sir, I rise in support of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021. It is an exhaustive Bill with many huge improvements. The scope of the Bill has been enhanced to have the penal provisions, which are welcome aspects of the Bill. Sir, I will just give a few points. For Odisha, I want to request the hon. Minister that we have to increase the number of national parks in Odisha. In my constituency, there are Harishankar and Narsinghnath which are home to millions of species of fauna. Specially today, when our Government and the hon. Prime Minister are promoting AYUSH and the alternative systems of medicines, this would be a very precious treasure trove for us.

1758 hours  (Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

Another point which I want to mention here is that there is no mention of forest fires in this Wild Life Protection Bill. Forest fires are a great menace and a constant occurrence. Last year, Simlipal National Park was burning for days and days, and about 15,000 trees got burnt and a forest guard died. There was no way to control that fire which - I support what the hon. Member, Shri Suresh Pujariji said – was largely due to lack of staff training and lack of modern technology like drones etc. We really need to put this in. Under national parks, it is mentioned here that no human activity is allowed.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्यगण, सभा की सहमति हो तो सदन की कार्यवाही इस विषयक की समाधान तक बढ़ा दी जाए? 
सभी माननीय सदस्य : जी हाँ  
(1800/SNT/RV)

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): So, Sir, I was saying it is mentioned that no human activity is allowed in the National Parks. But the truth of the matter is that the villagers, especially the tribal populace which lives there sets fire to a limited area. Then, it is absolutely uncontrollable to limit the fire, and it is not possible to go there and collect the local forest produce.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्यगण 
... (व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Sir, I have a request for the Minister. In my constituency last year, the STF itself uncovered 28 leopard skins. Every year, there is leopard poaching in Odisha. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that this should also be taken into consideration. Thank you very much, Sir.

(ends)
2.02 P.M.

14. Government Bill – Passed

*The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021*

Time Allotted: 04 Hrs.
Time Taken: 05 Hrs. 05 Mts.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was moved by Shri Bhupender Yadav.

The following members took part in the debate:-

1. Shri Pradyut Bordoloi
2. Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh
3. Shri A. Raja
4. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
5. Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav
6. Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale
7. Shri Sunil Kumar
8. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh (intervened)
9. Smt. Sarmistha Kumari Sethi
10. Shri Ram Shiromani Verma
11. Shri Faizal P.P. Mohammed
12. Shri Jayadev Galla
13. Adv. Dean Kuriakose
14. Km. Diya Kumari
15. Dr. M.P. Abdussamad Samadani
17. Dr. S.T. Hasan
18. Smt. Aparajita Sarangi
19. Shri N.K. Premachandran
20. Shri Ganesh Singh

& Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
21. Shri Hanuman Beniwal
22. Shri P. Ravindranath
23. Shri Jandardan Mishra
24. Shri Hasnain Masoodi
25. Shri Anto Antony
26. Ms. Agatha K. Sangama
27. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
28. Shri Suresh Kumar Pujari
29. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
30. Dr. Tholkappiyan Thirumaavalavan
31. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
32. Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann
33. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
34. Prof. Sougata Ray
35. Shri Jasbir Singh Gill
36. Shri Dhal Singh Bisen
37. Ms. Ramya Haridas
38. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
39. Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo

Shri Bhupender Yadav replied to the debate.

The motion for consideration was adopted and clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill was taken up.

Clause 2 was adopted, as amended.
Clause 3 was adopted.
Clause 4 was adopted.
Clause 5 was negatived.
Clauses 6 to 10 were adopted.
Clause 11 was adopted.
Clause 12 was adopted, as amended.
Clause 13 was adopted, as amended.
Clause 14 was adopted.
Clause 15 was adopted, as amended.
Clauses 16 and 17 were adopted.
Shri Bhupender Yadav moved the following motion under Rule 388:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 9 to the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.
An amendment for insertion of new clause 17A was adopted.
New Clause 17A was also adopted.
Clauses 18 to 25 were adopted.
Clause 26 was adopted.
Clause 27 was adopted, as amended.
Clauses 28 and 29 were adopted.
Clause 30 was adopted, as amended.
Clause 31 was adopted.
Clauses 32 and 33 were adopted.
Clauses 34 and 35 were adopted.
Clause 36 was adopted, as amended.
Clause 37 was adopted.
Clause 38 was adopted, as amended.
Clause 39 was adopted.
Clause 40 was adopted, as amended.
Clause 41 was adopted, as amended.
Clause 1 was adopted, as amended.
The Enacting Formula was adopted, as amended.
The Long Title was also adopted.
The motion that the Bill, as amended be passed, was moved by Shri Bhupender Yadav.

The motion was adopted and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

7.07 P.M.

(Lok Sabha adjourned till 11.00 A.M., Wednesday, the 3rd August, 2022.)

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General