

**ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA**

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
42 Mile Stone, Delhi-Agra Highway, NH-2,
Ballabhgarh, Haryana-121004

Email: support-awbi@gov.in Website: www.awbi.gov.in

File No.AC-0103/1/2024-AWBI

To,

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
2. The Chief Secretaries of all the State/UT's.
3. Director General of Forest of All the State/UT's.

Subject: Request to issue necessary amendment in the notification issued under Environmental Protection Act, 1986, for prohibition of all harmful sharp threads or Manjha used for kite flying activities - regarding.

Reference:

1. D. O Letter No. 17/16/2014-AWD dated 9th September 2014.
2. The AWBI letters dated 14.05.2013 addressed to PS to the Hon'ble Minister of Forest of all State /UT's.
3. The AWBI letters dated 13.01.2016 addressed to the Chief Secretaries of all the State/ UT's.

Sir/Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a Statutory Body established under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, with the primary mandate of promoting animal welfare and preventing unnecessary pain or suffering inflicted upon animals. As an advisory board to the Government, on matters pertaining to animal protection, issuing circulars and guidelines to safeguard animal welfare falls well within our statutory powers as prescribed under applicable law.

2. In this regard, it is submitted that the AWBI through its letters dated 14.05.2013, addressed to all the PS to Honorable Ministers of Forest of all States/Union Territories, and letter dated 13.01.2016 addressed to the Chief Secretary of all States / UTs, has emphasized the necessity of banning glass-coated metal, plastic, or other sharp Manjha threads. Additionally, the MoEF&CC issued a directive dated 09.09.2014 to all Chief Secretaries of State/UTs to address the issue of harmful Manjha threads, particularly those made from nylon, glass, or metal, which pose significant threats to wildlife.

3. Further, the National Green Tribunal, in its judgment dated 11.07.2017, acknowledged the efforts of various stakeholders, including the AWBI and MoEF&CC, in advocating for the ban on synthetic Manjha threads. The tribunal directed all the State Governments and Union Territories to enforce a total ban on Manjha threads made up of nylon or any synthetic material, coated with synthetic substances, and non-biodegradable. Also, giving the gravity of the situation and the environmental and wildlife conservation concerns associated with the use of harmful Manjha threads, it is imperative that immediate action be taken.

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4. In light of the foregoing, it is kindly requested to amend respective notifications under Environmental Protection Act, 1986, to put complete prohibition of all harmful sharp threads or Manjha made up of nylon other threads gummed or coated with powder glass (including powder glass or metal coated cotton thread) used for kite flying activities and permit only plain cotton thread for kite flying. This proactive measure aligns with the directives of the National Green Tribunal and reflects our commitment to environmental sustainability and wildlife protection.

5. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. S.K. Dutta)
Secretary