

Standing Committee Report Summary

The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2013

- The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests (Chairperson: Mr. Ashwani Kumar) submitted its report on the Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2013 on December 11, 2014.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for the: (i) protection of various species of wild life, (ii) management of their habitat, and (iii) regulation and control the trade of products derived from wild animals.
- The Bill seeks make provisions relating to the control of international trade in wildlife, increase the punishment for certain offences under the Act, and allow certain activities such as grazing or movement of livestock, with a permit.
- In its meeting with the Standing Committee, in October 2014, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change stated its intent to withdraw the Bill, and conduct another review of the Act.
- According to the Ministry, some of the issues it would like to address include protection of additional wild life species, the creation of wild life authorities in areas outside protected areas, modifying the powers of officials of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, etc.
- According to the Standing Committee, since the Ministry has decided to withdraw the current Bill, the Committee did not review it. The Committee recommended that the government conduct a review of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and draft a comprehensive Bill.

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