

Section 11 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972

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Recently, the Kerala Legislative Assembly has called upon the Union Government to amend pertinent sections of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 to effectively combat the escalating human-animal conflict within the state.

[ref- britannica]

Demand for Amendment: Section 11 - Regulating Hunting

- The resolution primarily urges the Union Government to **amend Section 11 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972**.
- Section 11 of the 1972 Act governs the **hunting of wild animals**.
- Clause (1)(A) empowers the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) of a state to permit hunting or killing of Schedule I (mammals) specified wild animals if **deemed dangerous, disabled, or beyond recovery**.
- Authority granted to the CWLW includes ordering the killing of such animals if **tranquilization or relocation is impractical post-capture**.

Objective of Amendment:

- Kerala urges the Union Government to **revise Section 11**, recognizing its inadequacy in effectively managing the surge in **human-animal conflicts**.
- Kerala wants to amend the Section 11 (1) (A) so as to devolve the above-mentioned powers of the CWLW to **Chief Conservators of Forests (CCF)** instead.
- According to the state, such an amendment would simplify procedures for dealing with **wild animals posing a threat to human life**, by enabling **speedy and timely decisions** to be taken at a more **localised level**.

Vermin Declaration for Wild Boars:

- Kerala wants the Centre to declare **wild boar as vermin**, as per section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act.
- The Union Government can notify **any wild animal in Schedule II of the Act** (which protects it from hunting), as **vermin** for a **period of time in an area/state**.
- An animal is declared as vermin when it **poses threat to life and crops**.

- Animals declared as vermin **lose protection from hunting**, enabling culling to safeguard life and livelihood.
- Kerala seeks vermin status for wild boars due to their **threat to both humans and agriculture**.
- Kerala emphasizes the **destructive impact of wild boars** on **farmland**, leading to economic losses and challenges in mitigation.

Escalating Crisis and Statistics:

Human-Animal Conflict in Kerala:

- Recent years witness a steady rise in human-animal conflicts, causing threats to life and significant damage to the agricultural sector.
- A critical incident involving a **radio-collared wild elephant** in Wayanad highlights the severity of the crisis.

Government Data (2022-23):

- Recorded 8,873 wild animal attacks, with elephants (4,193), wild boars (1,524), tigers (193), leopards (244), and bison (32) contributing.
- 98 reported deaths, with 27 attributed to elephant attacks.
- From 2017 to 2023, 20,957 incidents of crop loss occurred due to wild animal raids, causing the death of 1,559 domestic animals.