



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

(Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)
(पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

S. UMA RANI
SECRETARY

No.8-5/2013-14/HE

Dated 14th May, 13

To

The P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister of
Forest of all States / U.T.s

Sir/Madam,

Sub: Request for Ban on glass-coated, metal, plastic or other sharp Manja thread – Reg

I am directed to bring to your kind notice that the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India was established for promotion of animal welfare generally and for the purpose of protecting animals from being subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering, in particular. One of the important functions of the Board is to impart education in relation to humane treatment of animals and to encourage the formation of public opinion against the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering to animals and for the promotion of animal welfare by means of lectures, books, posters, cinematographic exhibitions etc.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 makes causing unnecessary suffering to any animal illegal. The manja used in kite-flying competitions is gummed and coated with powdered and finely crushed glass or made sharp using other materials. Killing wildlife is illegal under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 which states, "No person shall hunt any wild animal as specified in Schedules I, II, III, IV or V of the Act." The act in Chapter I (16) (a) defines hunting as "capturing, killing, poisoning, snaring, and trapping of any wild animal and every attempt to do so" and (c) "injuring or destroying or taking any part of the body of any such animal, or in the case of wild birds or reptiles, damaging the eggs of such birds or reptiles, or disturbing the eggs or nests of such birds or reptiles". Yet manja is deadly for thousands of pigeons, crows, owls, kites, vultures and other birds—including those whose species are endangered—who get slashed, wounded or killed when they become entangled in the manja.

In order to uphold our nation's animal protection laws and our Constitutional mandate under Article 51A(g) "to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures", the sale and use of glass-coated, metal, plastic or other sharp manja must be banned. As you know, sharp manja is used to cut opponents' kites but it also causes criminal cruelty to animals and people, resulting in them suffering severe injuries and death, and disrupts power lines, sometimes causing electrocution. Manja is already banned in some places, such as Gujarat, Mumbai, Chennai and the Punjab province of Pakistan but is often not well enforced.

A bird rescuer in Ahmedabad estimates that 2,000 birds are injured every year during Uttarayan in that city alone and that 500 of them die from their injuries. Of course, these are only reported cases. Many other bird injuries and deaths go unreported.

In addition to its horrific toll on birds, every year manja results in injury, death or electrocution of people as the sharp string accidentally slits the throats of people travelling on motorbikes, or cuts power lines as children fly kites.

In view of the above, it is therefore requested that necessary steps be taken by the State to issue an immediate notice banning the sale and use of glass-coated, metal, plastic or other sharp manja thread in your state and our streets, parks and trees from this indiscriminate killer. Your action would help safeguard the environment for people and for animals.

DESPATCHED

Yours faithfully,

(S. UMA RANI)
Secretary

20/5/13

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Done by
Hon
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