



Animal Welfare Board of India

(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
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No.8-5/2013-14/HE

Dated 13th January, 16

To

The Chief Secretary of
All States and UTs

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

Sir/Madam,

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

Ref.: Our office letter of even number dated 14th May, 2013 (copy enclosed)

2) D.O. Letter No.17/16/2014-AWD dated 9th September, 2014 addressed to Chief
Secretary, Govt. of Maharastra on the above subject (copy enclosed)

Kindly refer to the letter no.8-5/2013-14/HE dated 14th May, 2013 addressed to the
Hon'ble Minister of Forest of all States/UTs.

In this connection, I am directed to bring to your kind notice that the 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. The Ministry has
also addressed a letter on the above subject.

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 directions to all the concerned authorities to take immediate action against the 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.

A copy of the action taken report may kindly be forwarded to the Board for information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,



(S. VINOD KUMAAR)
Assistant Secretary

Encl. as above.

Copy to: The Director General of Police of all States and UTs
2) Chairman, AWBI and Vice-Chairman, AWBI