

Need to expedite introduction and passage of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2022 ? Laid

SHRIMATI JUNE MALIAH (MEDINIPUR): I urgently request the expedited introduction and passage of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2022. Released for public consultation on 21.11.2022, this Bill is crucial for enhancing animal protection and promoting societal welfare.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 has not been updated for over sixty years, rendering it ineffective in the face of rising incidents of animal cruelty. Current penalties, ranging from 10 to 100, are grossly inadequate and do not serve as a deterrent. Furthermore, many offences remain non-cognizable and bailable, allowing offenders to evade accountability. This fosters a troubling mindset that disregards legal boundaries, posing risks to societal wellbeing.

The proposed Bill includes vital reforms such as increased penalties, the introduction of additional cognizable offences and the establishment of State Animal Welfare Boards. Despite widespread public support-evidenced by the backing of 144 Members of Parliament-the Bill remains unIntroduced. Following the completion of inter-ministerial and stakeholder consultations, including input from animal welfare organizations and legal experts, and after the bill was published on the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying's website for public comments, the tabling in Parliament has experienced significant delays.

I respectfully urge the concerned department to prioritise the introduction of this Bill and facilitate its swift passage.