

CHAPTER V

Trade or Commerce in Wild Animals, Animal Articles and Trophies

39. Wild Animal, etc. to be Government property. - (1) Every –

- (a) wild animal, other than vermin, which is hunted under Sec. 11 or sec.29 or sub-section (6) of sec 35 or kept or [bred in captivity or hunted¹] in contravention of any provisions of this Act or any rule or order made thereunder, or found dead, or killed by [***] mistake;
- (b) animal article, trophy or uncured trophy or meat derived from any wild animal referred to in Cl.(a) in respect of which any offence against this Act or any rule or order made thereunder has been committed;
- [²(c) ivory imported into India and an article made from such ivory in respect of which any offence against this Act or any rule or order made thereunder has been committed.
- (d) vehicle, vessel, weapon, trap or tool that has been used for committing an offence and has been seized under the provision of this Act.]

shall be the property of the State Government and, where such animal is hunted in a sanctuary or National Park declared by the Central Government such animal or any article, trophy, uncured trophy or meat [derived from such animal or any vehicle, vessel, weapon, trap, or tool used in such hunting, ³] shall be the property of Central Government.

(2) Any person who obtains, by any means, the possession of Government property, shall, within forty-eight hours of obtaining such possession, report it to the nearest police station or authorised officer and shall, if so required, hand over such property to the officer in charge of such police station or such authorised officer, as the case may be.

(3) No person shall, without the previous permission in writing of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer.

- (a) acquire or keep in his possession, custody, or control, or
- (b) transfer to any person, whether by way of gift, sale or otherwise, or
- (c) destroy or damage

such Government property.

40. Declaration. – (1) Every person having at the commencement of this Act the control, custody, or possession of any captive animal specified in Sch. I or Part 11 of Sch. 11, or any uncured trophy derived from such animal or salted or dried skin of such animal or the musk of a musk deer or the horn of a rhinoceros, shall, within thirty days from the commencement of this Act, declare to the Chief Wildlife-Warden or the authorised officer the number and description of animal, or article of the foregoing description under his control, custody or possession and the place where such animal or article is kept.

(2) No person shall, after the commencement of this Act, acquire, receive, keep in his control, custody or possession, sell, offer for sale, or otherwise transfer or transport any animal specified in Sch. 1 or Part 11 of Sch. 11, any uncured trophy or meat derived from such animal, or the salted or dried skin of such animal or the musk of a deer or the horn of a rhinoceros, except with the previous permission in writing of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer.

[⁴(3) Nothing in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall apply to a recognised zoo subject to the provisions of section 381 or to a public museum.]

(4) The State Government may, by notification, require any person to declare to the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer any animal, article or trophy (other than the musk of musk deer or the horn of rhinoceros), or salted or dried skin derived from an animal specified in Sch. I or Part 11 of Sch. H in his control, custody or possession in such form, in such manner, and within such time as may be prescribed.

41. Inquiry and preparation of inventories. - (1) On receipt of a declaration made under sec.40, the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer may, after such notice, in such manner and at such time as may be prescribed,

- (a) enter upon the premises of a person referred to in Sec.40;
- (b) make inquiries and prepare inventories of animal articles, trophies, uncured trophies, salted and dried skins, and captive animals specified in Sch. I and Part 11 of Sch. 11 and found thereon; and
- (c) affix upon the animals, animal articles, trophies of uncured trophies, identification marks in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) No person shall obliterate or counterfeit any identification mark referred to in this Chapter.

42. Certificate of ownership. - The Chief Wildlife Warden may, for the purposes of Sec. 40, issue a certificate of ownership in such form, as may be prescribed, to any person who, in his opinion, is in lawful possession of any wild animal or any animal article, trophy, or uncured trophy, and may, where possible, mark, in the prescribed manner, such animal article, trophy or uncured trophy for the purposes of Identification.

43. Regulation of transfer of animal etc. - (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), (3) and (4), a person (other than a dealer) who does not possess a certificate of ownership shall not

- (a) sell or offer for sale or transfer whether by way of sale, gift or otherwise, any wild animal specified in Sch. I or Part II of Sch. 11 or any captive animal belonging to that category or any animal article, trophy, uncured trophy or meat derived therefrom;
- (b) make animal articles containing part or whole of such animal;
- (c) put under a process of taxidermy an uncured trophy of such animal;

except with the previous permission in writing of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer.

(2) Where a person transfers or transports from the State in which he resides to another State or acquires by transfer from outside the State any such animal, animal article, trophy or uncured trophy as referred to in sub-section (1) in respect of which he has a certificate of ownership, he shall, within thirty days of the transfer or transport, report the transfer or transport to the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer within whose jurisdiction the transfer or transport is effected.

(3) No person who does not possess a certificate of ownership shall transfer or transport from one State to another state or acquire by transfer from outside the State any such animal, animal article, trophy or uncured trophy as is referred to in sub-section (1) except with the previous permission in writing of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer within whose jurisdiction the transfer is to be effected.

(4) Before granting any permission under sub-section (1) or sub-section (3), the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer shall satisfy himself that the animal or article referred to therein has been lawfully acquired.

(5) While permitting the transfer or transport of any animal, animal article, trophy or uncured trophy, as is referred to in sub-section (1), the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer

- (a) shall issue a certificate of ownership after such inquiry as he may deem fit;
- (b) shall, where the certificate of ownership existed in the name of the previous owner, issue a fresh certificate of ownership in the name of the person to whom the transfer has been effected,.
- (c) may affix an identification mark on any such animal, animal article, trophy or uncured trophy.

6. Nothing in this section shall apply –

[⁵(a) to tail feather of peacock and animal articles or trophies made therefrom],

[⁶(b) to any transaction entered into by a recognised zoo subject to the provisions of Sec 381 or by a public museum with any other recognised zoo or public museum]

44. Dealings in trophy and animal articles without licence prohibited. – (1) [⁷Subject to the provisions of Chapter VA, no person shall, except under, and in accordance with, a licence granted under sub-section (4), –]

- (a) commence or carry on the business as
 - (i) a manufacturer of, or dealer in, any animal article, or
 - (ia) [⁸Omitted]
 - (ii) a taxidermist; or
 - (iii) a dealer in trophy or uncured trophy; or
 - (iv) a dealer in captive animal; or
 - (v) a dealer in meat; or
- (b) cook or serve meat in any eating-house

[⁹(c) derive, collect or prepare, or deal in, snake venom,]:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall prevent a person, who immediately before the commencement of this Act was carrying on the business or occupation specified in this sub-section, from carrying on such business or occupation for a period of thirty days from such commencement, or where he has made an application within that period for the grant of a licence to him, until the licence is granted to him or he is informed in writing that a licence cannot be granted to him.

[¹⁰Provided further that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to the dealers in tail feathers of peacock and articles made therefrom and the manufacturers of such article.]

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, “eating-house” includes a hotel, restaurant or any other place where any eatable is served on payment, whether or not such payment is separately made for such eatable or is included in the amount charged in board and lodging.

(2) Every manufacturer of, or dealer in animal article, or every dealer in captive animals, trophies or uncured trophies, or every taxidermist shall, within fifteen days from the commencement of this Act, declare to the Chief Wildlife Warden his stocks of animal articles, captive animals, trophies and uncured trophies, as the case may be, as on the date of such declaration and the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer may place an identification mark on every animal article, captive animal trophy or uncured trophy, as the case may be.

(3) Every person referred to in sub-section (1) who intends to obtain a licence shall¹¹, make an application to the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer for the grant of a licence.

(4) (a) Every application referred to in sub-section (3) shall be made in such form and on payment of such as fee as may be prescribed, to the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer.

[¹²(b) No licence referred to in sub-section (1) shall be granted unless the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer having regard to the antecedents and previous experience of the applicant, the implications which the grant of such licence would have on the status of wildlife and to such other matters as may be prescribed in this behalf and after making such inquiry in respect of those matters as he may think fit, is satisfied that the licence should be granted].

(5) Every licence granted under this section shall specify the premises in which and the conditions, if any, subject to which the licensee shall carry on his business.

(6) Every licence granted under this section shall

(a) be valid for one year from the date of its grant;

(b) not be transferable; and

(c) be renewable for a period not exceeding one year at a time.

(7) No application for the renewal of a licence shall be rejected unless the holder of such licence has been given a reasonable opportunity of presenting his case and unless the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer is satisfied that.

- (i) the application for such renewal has been made after the expiry of the period specified thereof, or
- (ii) any statement made by the applicant at the time of the grant or renewal of the licence was incorrect or false in material particulars, or
- (iii) the applicant has contravened any term of condition of the licence, or any provision of this Act, or any rule made thereunder, or
- (iv) the applicant does not fulfill the prescribed conditions.

(8) Every order granting or rejecting in application for the grant or renewal of a licence shall be made in writing.

(9) Nothing in the foregoing sub-section shall apply in relation to vermin.

45. Suspension or calculation of licence. - Subject to any general or special order of the State Government the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer may, for reason to be recorded by him in writing, suspend or cancel any licence granted or renewed under sec.44:

Provided that no such suspension or cancellation shall be made except after giving the holder of the licence a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

46. Appeal. - (1) An appeal from an order refusing to grant or renew a licence under sec.44 of an order suspending or canceling a licence under sec. 45 shall lie

- (a) if the order is made by the authorised officer, to the Chief Wildlife Warden, or
- (b) if the order is made by the Chief Wildlife Warden to the State Government.

(2) In the case of an order passed in appeal by the Chief Wildlife Warden' under C1. (a) of sub-section (1), a second appeal shall lie to the State Government.

(3) Subject as aforesaid, every order passed in appeal under this section shall be final.

(4) An appeal under this section shall be preferred within days from the date of the communication, to be applicant, or the order appealed against.

Provided that the appellate authority may appeal preferred after the expiry of the period aforesaid if it is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal in time.

47. Maintenance of records. - A licensee under this Chapter shall-

- (a) keep records, and submit such returns of his dealings, as may be prescribed.
 - (i) to the Director or any other officer authorised by him in this behalf, and
 - (ii) to the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer, and
- (b) make such records available on demand for inspection by such officers.

48. Purchase of animal, etc., by licensee. - No licensee under this Chapter shall

- (a) keep in his control, custody, or possession
 - (i) any animal, animal article, trophy or uncured trophy in respect of which a declaration under the provisions of sub-section (2) of sec.44 has to be made but has not been made;
 - (ii) any animal or animal article, trophy, uncured trophy or meat which has not been lawfully acquired under the provisions of this Act or any rule of order made thereunder.
- (b) (i) capture any wild animal, or
 - (ii) acquire, receive, keep in his control, custody, or possession, or sell, offer for sale, or transport, any captive animal specified in Sch. I or Part II of Sch. 11 or any animal article, trophy or uncured trophy, or meat derived therefrom, or serve such meat, or put under a process or taxidening or make animal article containing part or whole of such animal,

except in accordance with such rules as may be made under this Act:

Provided that where the acquisition, or possession, or control, or custody of such animal or animal article, trophy or uncured trophy entails the transfer or transport from one State to another, no such transfer or transport shall be effected except with the previous permission in writing of the Director or any other officer authorised by him in this behalf.

Provided further that no such permission under the foregoing proviso shall be granted unless the Director or the officer authorised by him is satisfied that the animal or article aforesaid has been lawfully acquired.

[¹³**48A Restriction of transportation of wildlife.** - No person shall accept any wild animal (other than vermin) or any animal article, or any specified plant or part or derivative thereof, for transportation except after exercising due care to ascertain that permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden or any other officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf has been obtained for such transportation.]

49. Purchase of captive animal, etc. person other than a licensee. - No person shall purchase, receive or acquire any captive animal, wild animal other than vermin, or any animal article, trophy, uncured trophy, or meat derived therefrom otherwise than from a dealer or from a person authorised to sell or otherwise transfer the same under this Act.

[¹⁴Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to a recognised zoo subject to the provision of section 38-1 or to a public museum.]

¹ Sec.39(1)(a) “or hunted” inserted in between “bred in captivity” and “in contravention” by Act 44 of 1991, sec.27. Sec.26(1)(a) The words “without a licence or” after “or killed” omitted by Act 44 of 1991, sec.27.

² Sec.39.(1)(c) Inserted by Act 44 of 1991, sec.27.

³ Sec.39(1) “derived from such animal” substituted by Act 44 of 1991, sec.27.

- ⁴ Sec.40(3) “Nothing in sub-section (1) or (2) shall apply to a public museum or zoo.” substituted by Act 44 of 1991, sec.28.
- ⁵ Sec.43(6)(a) “to animal articles or trophies made out of feathers of peacocks;” substituted by Act 44 of 1991, sec,29.
- ⁶ Sec.43(6)(b) “to any transaction entered into by a public museum or zoo with any other public museum or zoo.” substituted by Act 44 of 199 1, sec.29.
- ⁷ Sec.44(1) Substituted by Act 28 of 1986, sec.2 for the words” Except under, and in accordance with, a licence granted under sub-section (4), no person shall”.
- ⁸ Sec.44(1)(a)(ia) ‘a manufacturer of, or dealer in, any article made of ivory imported into India;’ omitted by Act 44 of 1991, sec.30.
- ⁹ Sec.44(1)(c) Inserted by Act 44 of 1991, sec.30.
- ¹⁰ Sec.44(1) Second provision substituted by Act 44 of 1991, sec.30.
- ¹¹ Sec.44(3) The words “written fifteen days from the commencement of this Act.” omitted by Ad 23 of 1992. sec.3.
- ¹² Sec.44(4) (b) substituted by Act 23 of 1982, sec.3.
- ¹³ Sec.48A Inserted by Act 44 of 1991, sec.31.
- ¹⁴ Sec.49 “Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to any transaction entered into by a public museum or zoo with any public museum or zoo.” Substituted by Act 44 of 199 1, sec.32