

PRESS RELEASE

TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES POWER FENCES (REGISTRATION AND REGULATION) RULES TO PROTECT WILDLIFE FROM ELECTROCUTION

The Government of Tamil Nadu is deeply committed to protect Wildlife in the State. There have been instances of wild animals especially elephants getting electrocuted due to high voltage electric fences. In order to protect wildlife it has become essential to bring in place a set of regulations to standardise parameters for putting up power fences. At the same time, it is absolutely essential to safeguard agricultural produce of farmers being destroyed by wildlife in areas adjoining forests. Standardized regulations would also help farmers protect their crop.

In a first of its kind initiative, the Government of Tamil Nadu on 3rd July notified Tamil Nadu Power Fences (Registration and Regulation) Rules 2023. This would standardise and regulate erection of power fences and for registration of already erected power fences around farm lands.

The salient features of the rules are as follows:-

- It shall be mandatory to seek prior permission to erect power fences including solar power fences. It has also become mandatory to register already erected power fences.
- These rules shall be applicable only within 5 km from the notified Reserve Forests area in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- All companies in business of erecting power fences are now mandated to comply with BIS standard viz., BIS-302-2-76 (India) Norms.
- It has become mandatory for those who have already erected power fences within 5 km from notified Reserve Forests area to get their fences registered with the concerned District Forest Officer.
- In order to ensure that the compliance of conditions are done, a joint team of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and forest department shall take up field level inspections once in a fortnight and record details in a log book maintained.
- The District Forest Officer concerned, after inspecting the site and verifying the conformity of specifications along with Tamil Nadu Electricity Board officials, consider the application within 45 days for approval, reduction or rejection after due inspection.

- The owner of the property who have existing power fences as on the date of publication of these rules, shall apply within sixty days from the date of publication of these rules to the District Forest Officer for obtaining registration certificate.
- On receipt of permission, the owner of the property shall erect the power fence within ninety days from the date of permission and apply for registration of the power fence along with undertaking form.
- The quality of erected power fences shall be reviewed once in three years for providing fitness certificate, after joint site inspection by the team of Forest and Electricity Officials.

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