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ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA
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No. 9-2/2014-15-PCA

24th September, 2014

To
The Chief Secretary of all the States,
The Director General of Police of all the States
The Director, Animal Husbandry Department of all the States.

Sir/Madam,

Sub: Stopping of illegal Killing/sacrifices of Cows/calves, Camels and other animals and taking action against the offenders for violation of Transport of Animals Rules on the occasion of Bakrid - Reg.

The Bakrid festival will be celebrated on 6th October, 2014 all over the Country. It is a fact that large numbers of animals are slaughtered during Bakrid festival. It is reported that during the transportation of animals, the owner of the animals do not follow the animal welfare laws and Transport of Animals Rules, which prescribes the number of animals which can be transported in a vehicle, resulting in cruelty to the animals. It is noticed that the animals suffer and are subjected to various cruelties and some of the animals even die during transportation.

As you may be aware, cruelty to any animal is a punishable offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Such violation is against the spirit of Article 48, 48 (a) and 51 A(g) of the Constitution of India.

Kindly note that as per Rule 3 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001, no person shall slaughter any animal within a municipal area except in a slaughter house recognized or licensed by the concerned authority empowered under the law for the time being in force to do so and No animal which is pregnant has an offspring less than 3 months old, or is under 3 months of age, which has not been certified by a Veterinary Doctor that it is in a fit condition to be slaughtered, shall be slaughtered. Slaughter means the killing or destruction of any animal for the purpose of food and includes the processes and operations performed on all such animals in order to prepare it for being slaughtered.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued a direction in their LrNo.1-988/FSSAI/Import/2014 dt.06.08.2014 has defined animal as an animal belonging to any of the species specified below:

(i) Ovines, (ii) Caprines, (iii) Sullines and (iv) Bovines and includes poultry and fish.

It has also directed that the slaughtering of animals of any other species other than the one listed above is not permissible under the FSS Act and Regulation.

This effectively means that camels cannot be slaughtered for food at all. Also wherever the cow slaughter prohibition Act is in force, then slaughtering of cows should not be allowed at all.


The salient points of a few judgements of the High Court and Supreme Court of India are enclosed in the Annexure.

Unscrupulous persons are carrying on the business of illegal slaughter in violation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the Rules made there under. Such unlawful practice is also against the local Municipal Acts and Rules and also the directions of the Supreme Court of India in WP..... Laxmi Narain Miodi Vs Uoi & Ors.

May I therefore, request you to kindly and direct all the authorities concerned to take all precautionary measures to strictly implement the Animal Welfare laws to stop illegal killing of animals and to take stringent action against the offenders violating the animal laws viz. PCA Act, 1960, Transport of Animals Rules 1978, Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules 2001, Slaughter House Rules, 2001, Municipal laws and Food Safety & Standards Authority of India directions for slaughtering of animals during Bakrid festival.

Action taken in this regard may kindly be intimated to the Board.

Yours faithfully,


(S. VINOD KUMAAR)
Secretary I/c

Copy to Chairman, AWBI / Vice Chairman, AWBI and the Members of the Board