



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
NIAW Campus, 42 Mile Stone, Delhi-Agra Highway
NH-2, Ballabhgarh, Haryana-121004
Email: animalwelfareboard@gmail.com : Website: www.awbi.in

No.3-4/2021-22/PCA

Date: 20.03.2023

To,

1. The Director,
Department of Animal Husbandry of all State Governments/UTs
2. The District Collector of all the States/UTs
3. The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of each District

Subject: Request for closure of slaughter house(s) on the auspicious occasion of Mahavir Jayanthi being celebrated on 04.04.2023 – regarding.

Ref. : The directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in C.A. No.5469 of 2005, Hinsa Virodhak Sangh Vs Mirzapur Moti Kuresh Jamat & Ors dated 14.03.2008 (Copy enclosed)

Sir / Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a Statutory Body established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (PCA) Act, 1960 and is an apex body for the protection and safeguarding of the rights of animals as well as to ensure that the five freedoms of the animals are upheld and no animals are subject to any unnecessary pain or suffering. Also, the AWBI can advise the Government or local authority or other person in regard to the design of slaughterhouses or maintenance of slaughter houses or in connection with the slaughter of animals.

2. In this regard, it is stated that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 14.3.2008 in CA. No.5469 of 2005, Hinsa Virodhak Sangh Vs Mirzapur Moti Kuresh Jamat & Ors, issued directions that in view of the notification of the Municipal Corporation of Ahmedabad the slaughterhouse(s) and meat shops to be closed for the Paryushan Parva. The Apex Court noted that the "closure of a trade or business for a limited period is not an unreasonable restriction and is not a violation of Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India". A copy of the judgment is attached herewith for your ready reference.

3. Further, it is stated that the Govt. of India has enacted the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001 to

ensure that the animals are to be slaughtered in a humane manner. The Law enforcement is carried out by the Departments of the State Governments and UTs. The Hon 'ble Supreme Court of India has also considered the five freedoms given to the animals in its judgment dated 7.5.2014. The animals are to be slaughtered only in licensed slaughter houses. The State Authorities are empowered to initiate appropriate action against the offenders meting out cruelty to animals and to take action as per the law. The Board had also already brought the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 7.5.2014 for compliance of law enforcement authorities for taking necessary action in the matter to prevent unnecessary pain or suffering to animals.

4. In view of the above, it is requested that the concerned authorities like Municipal Corporation / Local bodies may in consideration of sentiment of a particular religion, may, however be considerate to suspend the slaughter of animals in the slaughter houses in those area where the pre-dominant population of this community is observing / celebrating the Mahavir Jayanthi on 04.04.2023.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. S.K. Dutta)
Secretary