



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
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File No.:AC-01003/1/2024-AWBI

To

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

Subject:- Request for closure of slaughter house(s) on the auspicious occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi being celebrated in the Country on 2nd October, 2024 – regarding.

Ref. : The directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in C.A. No.5469 of 2005, Hinsa Virodhak Sangh Vs Mirzapur Motil 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 Animals Act, 1960 and is an apex body for the protection and safeguard of the rights of the animals as well as to ensure that the five freedoms of the animals are upheld and no animals are subjected to any unnecessary pain or suffering. Also, the AWBI can advise the Government or local body or any other person in regard to design of slaughter houses or maintenance of slaughter houses or in connection with the slaughter of animals.

2. In this regard, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 14.03.2008 in C.A. No.5469 of 2005, Hinsa Virodhak Sangh Vs Mirzapur Motil 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 Department of the State Governments and UTs. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also considered the five freedoms of 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 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.

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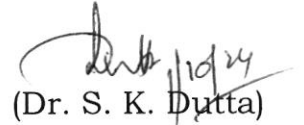
4. In view of the above it is requested that the concerned authorities like municipal corporations / local bodies / Panchayat may in consideration, suspend the slaughter of animals in the slaughter houses and closure of meat shops on the auspicious occasion of "Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi" being celebrated on 02.10.2024.

5. It is requested to forward a copy of the action taken in this regard to the Board for information and record.

6. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

7. Hindi Version follows.

Yours sincerely,


(Dr. S. K. Dutta)
Secretary

Encl.: as above.