

**Bill No. 254 of 2024**

THE PREVENTION OF SLAUGHTER AND PRESERVATION OF  
CATTLE BILL, 2024

By

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A

BILL

*to prohibit the slaughter of cattle and for the preservation of improvement of the  
breeds of cattle and to endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry  
in terms of article 48 of the Constitution of India by enacting  
a comprehensive legislation.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India as  
follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle  
Act, 2024.

Short title, extent  
and commencement.

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(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification  
in the Official Gazette, appoint.

## Definitions.

## 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

- (a) "Aayog" means the Go-Seva Aayog established under Section 12 of this Act;
- (b) " Beef" means flesh of the cattle in any form;
- (c) " Beef products" include extraction from beef;
- (d) "Cattle" means cow, calf of a cow and bull, bullock of all ages and he or she buffalo of all ages; 5
- (e) "GauShala " means a shelter established for the protection and preservation of cattle registered as such with the Animal Welfare Board or under the State or Central Act;
- (f) " Government" means the Central Government; 10
- (g) "Premises" means and includes any premises, vessel or vehicle;
- (h) " Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (i) "Slaughter" means killing by any method whatsoever and includes maiming and infliction of physical injury which in the ordinary course will cause death; and
- (j) "Uneconomic Cattle" includes stray, unprotected, infirm, disabled, diseased or barren Cattle. 15

## Prohibition of slaughter of cattle.

3. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law, custom, or usage to the contrary, no person shall slaughter or cause to be slaughtered, or offer or cause to be offered for slaughter or otherwise intentionally kill or offer or cause to be offered for killing any cattle.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in any other law for the time being in force or any custom or usage to be contrary, no person shall slaughter or cause to be slaughtered or offer or cause to be offered for slaughter any cattle, unless he has obtained permit in respect of such cattle in writing from the Competent Authority appointed for the area as may be prescribed: 20

Provided that the killing of cattle accidentally or in self-defence shall not be deemed to be slaughter under the Act unless proved otherwise. 25

## Permit, how to be issued.

4. (1) A permit under sub-section (2) shall be issued by the Competent Authority only after it has, for reasons to be recorded in writing, certified that—

(a) any cattle operated upon for vaccine lymph, serum or for any experimental or research purpose at an institution established, conducted or recognized by the Central Government; or 30

(b) any cattle which is suffering from any disease which is certified by a Veterinary Officer authorized by the State Government as being contagious and dangerous to other cattle;

(c) any cattle, slaughter of which is certified by a Veterinary Officer public health; and 35

(d) any cattle , slaughter of which is certified by a Veterinary Officer, to be necessary on the ground that it is suffering from an incurable disease as terminally ill.

(2) (a) No permit under section 3 shall be issued without certification of the Veterinary Officer of the area or such other officer of the Animal Husbandry Department as may be prescribed. 40

(b) any cattle slaughtered under sub-section (b), (c), (d) of section 2, shall be disposed of under the supervision of the Competent Authority in such manner as may be prescribed.

(c) the Provision of Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 or any other act time being in force relating to destruction of suffering animals shall so applicable under this Act.

(d) the Aayog, may, at any time for the purposes of satisfying itself as to be legality or propriety of the action taken by the Competent Authority under this section, call for and examine the record of any case and may pass such order thereon as it may deem fit.

5 (e) subject to the provisions herein contained, any action taken by the Competent Authority or under this section shall be final and conclusive and shall not be called in question in any Court.

10 **5.** Whoever contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of any of the provisions contained under section 3 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, or with fine which may extend to Five Lakhs rupees, or with both. Penalties.

**6.** No person shall transport or offer for transport or cause to be transported by whatever means any cattle from any place for slaughter. Restriction on transport of cattle.

15 Provided that, the transport of any cattle, in the manner prescribed by the Central Government, for *bona-fide* agricultural or animal husbandry purpose shall not be construed as an offence under this section.

Carrying cattle to grazing filed or for agricultural work within the particular local area shall not be considered as an offence under this section.

20 **7.** No person shall purchase, sell or otherwise dispose of or cause to be purchased, sold or otherwise disposed of, cattle for slaughter or knowing or having reason to believe that such cattle shall be slaughtered. Prohibition of sale or purchase.

**8.** Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, no person shall possess, sale or transport for sale or cause to be sold or transported beef or beef products in any form except for such medicinal purposes as may be prescribed. Prohibition of possession, sale or transport of beef and beef products

25 **9. (1)** Whosoever contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of the provisions of this Chapter shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term of three years which may extend to seven years or with fine which may extend to three lakh rupees or with both. Penalty.

30 **(2)** Whoever after conviction of an offence under the provisions of this Act is again found to be guilty of any offence under the provisions shall be punished with double the punishment provided for the said offence of the second and subsequent conviction.

**10. (1)** Whoever causes bodily pain, disease or infirmity to any cattle is said to cause hurt. Punishment for causing hurt.

35 **(2)** Whoever intentionally causes hurt to any cattle shall, on conviction, be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

**(3)** Whoever abets the commission of any offence under sub-section (2), shall be guilty of abetment of the said offence and shall be liable for the same punishment as is provided for the said offence.

40 **11. (1)** Whoever intentionally causes grievous injuries to any cattle shall, on conviction, be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but may extend to seven years and with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees. Punishment for grievous injuries to any cattle.

*Explanation.*— For the purpose of this section grievous injury shall include:—

- 45 (i) permanent privation of sight of either eyes,  
(ii) permanent privation of the hearing of either ear,  
(iii) privation of any member or joint,  
(iv) fracture or dislocation of a bone or tooth,  
(v) any hurt that endangers life or which causes the sufferer severe bodily pain and

ultimately renders unfit or unserviceable.

(2) Whoever abets the commission of an offence under sub-section (1) shall be guilty of abetment of the said offence and shall be liable for the same punishment as is provided for the said offence.

Constitution of the Aayog.	<b>12. (1) The Aayog shall consist of the following persons namely:</b>	5
	(a) One person having special knowledge or practical experience in welfare of cattle shall be nominated by the Government as Chairpersons of Aayog.	
	(b) One non-official member having special knowledge or practical experience in welfare of cattle to be nominated as vice chairperson by the Government.	
	(c) Nominated Members of the Aayog shall be as follows:—	10
	(i) One representative nominated by Animal Welfare Board of India.	
	(ii) Two persons actively engaged in Gouseva nominated by the Government.	
	(iii) Three persons having knowledge in Ayurveda, Panchagavya and Organize Farming nominated by the Government.	
	(iv) Five representatives to be nominated by the Government in consultation with/on recommendation of the Chairperson of the Aayog, from amongst the Gaushalas, Animal Welfare NGOs, Dairy Co-operative, Goushala Federation or Association.	15
	(d) The Government shall appoint an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary as the Secretary of the Aayog.	20
Employees of the Aayog.	<b>13. Subject to such rules as may be made by the Government in this behalf, the Aayog may appoint such number of other officers and employees as may be necessary for the exercise of its powers and the discharge of its functions and may determine the terms and conditions of service of such officers and other employees by regulations made by it with the previous approval of the Government.</b>	25
Funds of the Aayog.	<b>14. The Funds of the Aayog shall consist of grants made to it from time to time by the Government and of contributions, donations, subscriptions, bequests and gifts.</b>	
Functions of the Aayog.	<b>15. The Aayog shall perform the following functions, namely,—</b>	
	(i) supervise and ensure proper implementation of the rules with respect to preservation of cattle;	30
	(ii) to advise the government for welfare of cattle and work for development of all indigenous species of cattle;	
	(iii) work for the scientific use of dung and urine of Uneconomic Cattle and work for development of all indigenous species of cattle;	
	(iv) formation or establishment of pinjrapoles, rescue homes, animal shelters, sanctuaries and the like where cattle may find a shelter when they have become old and useless or when they need protection;	35
	(v) work for promotion of and assistance to Gaushalas or Gosadans and Activate defunct Goshalas and encourage for founding treatment centres for the welfare of cattle;	
	(vi) to assist in the working and functioning of the Goshalas, established and run by the voluntary organizations, for the purposes of providing financial assistance, training in the field of scientific rearing of various breeds of cattle as also for the proper utilization of dwelling and urine of the cattle for agriculture and domestic, including propagation and use of bio-gas plant based on the dung of cattle;	40
	(vii) exercise supervision over Gaushalas and Gosadans to check malafide diversion of funds provided by the commission as also of the lands or properties belonging to the	45

Goushalas or Gosadans and other voluntary organizations, and bring to the notice of the State Government specific instances for appropriate action;

(viii) develop pastures and associates with other institutions and bodies, whether private or public, for the said purposes;

5 (ix) apply for and obtain tracts of land from the Government or other persons by way of allotment, gift, lease or purchase for the purposes of developing pastures of growing fodder, establishing fodder banks, Goushalas and such other constructions there on as may be necessary for the purpose of this Act;

10 (x) Educate, campaign and make people aware about the economic benefits which can be derived out of cattle, in co-ordination with Nationalised Banks and Institutions;

(xi) Procure fodder and make available for use of cattle in the areas affected by famine, drought or other natural calamities and to set up camps for the aforesaid purposes in the affected areas;

15 (xii) Work in collaboration with Agriculture and Veterinary Universities or the organizations of the Central/State Governments engaged in the task of research in the fields of breeding and rearing cattle and organic manure/Bio-Gas and also collaborate with research projects of Indian System of Medicine like Ayurvedic and Panchagavya conducted by various public or private organizations for conducting research on the Biogenic products of the cow for medicinal purposes;

20 (xiii) Promote schemes to encourage more and more use of organic manure and recommend to the Government suitable measures including incentive schemes for use of dung or urine of cattle in organic manure by farmers to minimize the use of chemical fertilizers;

25 (xiv) Formulate and submit schemes for consideration of the Government for the establishment of cottage industries in the rural areas, based on biogas product of cattle as also based on skins, hides or bones of the naturally dead cattle for the purposes of manufacture of various products;

30 (xv) Take into custody the abandoned, stray, rescued, confiscated or seized cattle from the concerned local bodies, other competent authorities or courts after due authorization in accordance with law in force, for the time being and maintain them or get them maintained properly;

35 (xvi) Organize demonstrations, meetings and seminars pertaining to development of indigenous species of cattle, organic farming, developed bullock driven agricultural implements and carts and arrange for publicity and extension programmes regarding benefits from the cattle through all medias like Television, Radio, Newspapers and also shall publish advertisements, books, journals, audio and video clips, newsletters etc;

(xvii) Examine any other matter that may be referred to it by the government and submit its report thereon.

40 **16.** The Aayog may, subject to the previous approval of the Central Government make such regulations as it may think fit for the administration of its affairs and for carrying out its functions.

Power of Aayog to make regulations

45 **17. (1)** For the purpose of this Act a Police Officer not below the Rank of Sub-Inspector or the Competent Authority or person authorized in writing in that behalf by the competent authority (hereinafter in this section referred to as "the authorized person") shall have power to enter and search any premises where the Competent Authority or the authorized person has reason to believe that an offence under this Act has been, or is likely to be committed.

Power of search, seizure and arrest.

50 (2) Every person in occupation of such place shall allow the Competent Authority or the authorized person such as access to that Premises as may be necessary for the aforesaid purpose and shall answer to the best of his knowledge and belief any question put to him by the Competent Authority or the authorized person.

	(3) The Competent Authority or any person authorized in writing in that behalf by the Competent Authority, or any Police Officer not below the Rank of Sub-Inspector, as the case may be, if of the opinion that an offence under this Act has been committed or is likely to be committed, may seize any materials or carcasses or cattle or vehicle or conveyance, which have been or likely to be used in commission of the offence, from the premises so inspected and may detain or arrest any person suspected to have committed such offence.	5
	(4) After the seizure under sub-section (3), he shall report such seizure, without unreasonable delay before the Judicial Magistrate or Court having jurisdiction to try the offence.	
	(5) On receipt of the report, records relating to premises and materials used or intended to be used in the commission of the offence, the Magistrate or may on his being satisfied that an offence has been committed or intended to be committed under this Act, may release the materials including vehicle except cattle on production of a Bank guarantee equal to the value as estimated by him pending disposal of the criminal proceedings instituted in respect of the alleged offence, and on the execution of Bank guarantee by the owner thereof of a bond for the production of the property so released as and when so required before the magistrate having jurisdiction to try the offence on account of which the seizure had been made.	10 15
	(6) On conviction, the vehicle or any conveyance or bank guarantee so furnished and cattle so seized under this Act shall stand forfeited in the manner as may be prescribed.	20
	(7) For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Act the Competent Authority or the authorized person, in exercising the powers of search, seizure and arrest under this section, follow, as far as may be, the provisions of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.	
Constitution of Special Court.	<b>18.</b> The Government may, for the purpose of speedy disposal of disputes under this Act by notification, designate any Court as the Special Court for one or more districts.	25
Appeals.	<b>19.</b> Any person aggrieved by any order passed under section 7 may, within thirty days from the date of receipt of such order appeal to the Sessions Judge having jurisdiction over the area in which the property to which such order relates has been seized.	
Abetment.	<b>20.</b> Whoever abets any offence punishable under this Act or attempts to commit any such offence, shall be punished with the punishment provided in this Act for such an offence.	30
Offences to be cognizable and non-bailable.	<b>21.</b> Notwithstanding anything contained in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 an offence punishable under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable.	
Savings.	<b>22.</b> The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.	35
Power to remove difficulties.	<b>23. (1)</b> If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:  Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act.	40
	(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.	
Power to make rules.	<b>24. (1)</b> The Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments, may by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.  (2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may	45

be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be  
5 of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Article 48 of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breed, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and its progeny. It may be observed that article 48 casts a duty upon the Government to prohibit slaughter of cows and progeny.

Cow and its progeny are the mainstay of agriculture and rural economy of the country. Cows are considered sacred in our tradition and there is a good reason for that. Its milk is beneficial and nutritious for children and the sick persons. It serves the nation in many fields of life.

However it is a fact that cow is subjected to cruelty and atrocity. It is in the interest of the nation to take effective steps to prevent cruelty to cows by prohibiting slaughter of cows, which is the extreme form of cruelty. It is, therefore, necessary to have legislation not only for banning slaughter of cow but also for providing protection, shelter and care to cow and its progeny in the country.

The Bill seeks to provide for establishment of cow shelters for taking care of stray and abandoned cows and for prohibition of slaughter of cow and its progeny in the country.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
*November 7, 2024*

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 12 of the Bill provides for Constitution of the Aayog and appointment of officers and staff for the Aayog. Clause 14 requires the Central Government to provide, requisite funds for carrying out the purposes of this legislation. The Bill, if enacted, will involve expenditure recurring and non-recurring from the Consolidated Fund of India. However, it is not possible to assess the actual financial expenditure which is likely to be incurred at this stage.

#### MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 24 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

LOK SABHA

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*(Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, M.P.)*