

Bill No. 39 of 2018

THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018

By

SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts, 1960.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Act, 2018. Short title and commencement.

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

59 of 1960.

2. In section 22 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the following proviso shall be inserted at the end, namely:— Amendment of section 22.

"Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply to conduct of *bailgada sharyat* or bullock cart race in the State of Maharashtra."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The bullock cart race or *bailgada sharyat*, as locally called, is being celebrated extensively in the district of Pune and other parts of the State of Maharashtra. This traditional festival has a history of being celebrated for the last many centuries. However the bullock cart race has been banned by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change citing provisions of section 22 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had also given a similar judgment banning the bullock cart race on 7th May, 2014.

Keeping in view the sentiments of the people in mind, the State Government of Maharashtra passed an amendment Bill legalising bullock cart races in the State. The Bill was then sent for the kind approval of the President of India. The President has assented to the same. However, this could not be implemented with the intervention of the High Court of Bombay on an appeal by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Thus, the people of Maharashtra are still deprived of the celebrations of their festival and cultural heritage.

These bullock cart races or *bailgada sharyat* functions consist of taming of bulls as a part of ancient culture and tradition of the Maharashtrians. At present, there is no legislation to regulate the conduct of bullock cart race or *bailgada sharyat* or any such activity involving the taming of bulls. Unless the necessary amendments are made to the Central Act, the bullock cart races could not be conducted lawfully.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to amend the Prevention of Cruelty Act, 1960 with a view to permit exhibition and training of bulls for bullock cart races or *bailgada sharyat* in the State of Maharashtra.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
January 17, 2018.

SHIVAJI ADHAL RAO PATIL

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT, 1960
(59 OF 1960)

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22 No person shall exhibit or train—

(i) any performing animal unless he is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter;

(ii) as a performing animal, any animal which the Central Government may, by notification in the official gazette, specify as an animal which shall not be exhibited or trained as a performing animal.

Restriction on exhibition and training of performing animals.

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further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

(Shri Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, M.P.)