**PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT: JAIRAM RAMESH, HON’BLE MINISTER**

**New Delhi:** The Lok Sabha was informed that the Government would come forward with a comprehensive Animal Welfare Act with “steep penalties”. Hon’ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests, Shri Jairam Ramesh, said the country has an elaborate legal network and an institutional network for implementing both the law as well as the Rules. He said the Animal Welfare Board of India has registered 2,800 NGOs on its books out of which some 1,700 are goshalas which take care of migrant, roaming, unacknowledged animals on the streets. He said despite all these assistance, there were still visible cases of cruelty, besides organised cases of cruelty such as bull-fighting which is an accepted cultural practice in many states.

When Shri N.S.V.Chiththa, Hon’ble MP said that in Tamil Nadu bull-fighting is celebrated during the festival of harvest, Shri Ramesh said that “not every cultural practice is sustainable”. When the member said that it cannot be treated as cruelty to animals, the Minister said that “it has also seen the death of human beings. That was why, he said, the Animal Welfare Board moved the apex court in 2007 to ban jallikattu. But in response to this, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed regulations. Shri Ramesh said that the Catalonia Province of Spain, long associated with gory bull-fighting, has banned bull-fighting and why not Tamil Nadu ban jallikattu?”

When Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Hon’ble MP sought to know whether he would ban animal sacrifice practiced across the country, the Minister said that “a number of states have banned animal sacrifice in religious places. He said that he would send an advisory to all the states to emulate the states which have already banned animal sacrifices.”

The Minister also voiced concern, in response to a query from Shri Lalu Prasad, Hon’ble MP over the Sonpur Mela (Bihar) where elephants are treated. He said the Ministry of Environment and Forests has set up an Expert Group on Project Elephant which would submit its report by the end of August 2010. As long as the Sonpur Mela remains, the problem of elephant trade with all its consequences would continue, he said, adding that is why he has asked the group to look at the future of Sonpur Mela.

The Minister also described as “a matter of great shame” the manner in which elephants are treated in some of the most sacred temples of the country. (INS)

**SC seeks TNs views on jallikattu duration**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court sought the Tamil Nadu Governments response on suggestions made by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to limit the annual bull taming event jallikattu to two months, increase security deposit by the organisers to Rs 20 lakhs and hike the fine for violations to Rs 1 lakh from Rs 10,000. Appearing for AWBI, Senior Advocate told a Bench comprising Hon’ble Justice R. Vaveendran and H L Gokhale that the Regulation of Jallikattu Act, 2009 needed to be made stringent if misuse of the event and loss of human lives were to be averted. Shri Pandiyani suggested that Section 4(ix) of the Act, mandating organisers to deposit Rs 2 lakhs as security to cover exigencies like death or injuries of participants, needed to be enhanced to Rs 20 lakh.
He said the events, which were related to the harvest festival, need not be permitted for five months and the law should be amended to limit it to January and February. He also objected to the mild penalty Rs. 10,000 imposed on organisers found violating provisions of law and suggested that it be made Rs. 1 lakh.

On July 9, the apex court had expressed dissatisfaction at the deterrent provisions of the law and had termed it too lenient. Its first objection was to the period January to May permitted under the 2009 law.

HC comes to rescue of bats

Madurai: The Madurai Bench of Madras high court has rushed to the rescue of bat colonies facing threat in the campus of a city college.

It has restrained the management of Saraswathi Narayanan college at Perungudi from cutting down the trees in its campus, which serves as a habitat for about 5,000 fruit-eating bats. Passing the interim order, a division bench comprising Justices D. Murugesan and M. Duraishwamy directed the district forest officer to inspect the college and submit a report by August 18 on the number and nature of trees felled by the college management so far. The DFO was also ordered to account the number of trees available, now, on its premises.

Temple elephants are paying a price for their popularity. Essentially creatures of the wild and given to foraging over vast tracts of forest area, elephants are likely to see their health adversely affected while in captivity. “It is not a very happy situation right now,” admitted Dr VN Singh, chief conservator of forests.

“The guidelines on proper care for an elephant are still a grey area that most mahouts and owners are unaware of. So we ordered district forest officers to do a round of inspection of temples. Our veterinary doctors also checked the elephants. We found many elephants suffering from a lot of ailments.”

Humane Education Program organized

New Delhi: A Humane Education Program for students of Chinmaya Vidyalaya was organized by STRAW – “Stray Relief and Animal Welfare” on August 19, 2010 at their school premises at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. Nearly, hundred children were sensitized about the need for compassion and kindheartedness towards animals and other living creatures, who also share this world with us.

The highlight of the program was the introduction of puppies into the program, which excited the children very much. A man-animal connection was surely achieved. Children picked up the puppies, played with them, made a fuss over them and simply enjoyed every bit of it. The puppies loved it too.

The school authorities appreciated the event and have agreed to carry out these humane education workshops for other classes as well, for the next three months. This program was conducted with the help of volunteers who participated wholeheartedly.

STRAW – Stray Relief and Animal Welfare is an animal welfare organization that is recognized by the Animal Welfare Board of India and is a member society of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), UK. STRAW strives to achieve its motto of “Animal Welfare through Education” by means of humane education programs that are conducted in schools.

The idea is to plant a seed of compassion, care and respect for animals and other living creatures into the hearts of children in particular and people in general.

The response to the programmes in many schools of Delhi has been very encouraging. Both the children and their teachers love it because it contributes not only to animal welfare but also to the all round development of the child. To find out more, please visit: www.strawindia.org.

Support and Care for Zoo Animals

Mysores: Former Indian cricketer, Shri Javagal Srinath inaugurated an awareness programme on the animal adoption scheme at the century-old Mysores zoo. The programme was held in the presence of Shivaratri Deshikendra Swami of Suttur Math and other dignitaries here on August 28. “We take this opportunity to request the public, institutions and philanthropists to adopt an animal and be a proud ambassador of the conservation programmes taken up at the zoo,” said a press release from the zoo.

The adoption scheme is a novel way to show support and care for wild animals. Adoption contributes towards feeding of the animal for one year and will be part of the zoo’s efforts in wildlife conservation. There is an option of adopting the animal for less than one year as well. Under the scheme, the intending adopters receive a complimentary entry pass to the zoo and a certificate; they can also claim rebate under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. The animal adoption scheme has elicited a good response after it was re-launched in 2002.

A record number of animal lovers and institutions have adopted animals and birds under the scheme in 2009-10. As many as 261 animals and birds were adopted for Rs. 22,16,623. In 2010-11 (up to August 8), 106 animals and birds have been adopted for Rs. 12,39,876, the zoo said.

Govt mulls ban on blessing by elephants

Chennai: Having a giant hairy trunk touching your head as though Lord Ganesha himself was bestowing his blessings is something that devotes, adults and kids alike, covet most in a temple. But, this could soon end. The Tamil Nadu government is considering a ban on the use of elephants in temples for the purposes of blessing devotees.

The idea is based on a recommendation by forest officials. The issue was raised during a meeting between the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments and forest department officials after an inspection by forest officers in temples in the state. They found that the animals are housed in improper conditions and vulnerable to a host of diseases and ailments. Another reason raised was the possibility of the spread of diseases on contact with humans.

ABC Programme Organised

Vaddodara: Vaddodara Centre for Animal Rescue and Emergency (VCARE) has a administrative office at Kalpvrux complex, Gohi and shelter at Lalkulki village near Jasup in Padrada Taluk. Their work include operating and sterilising the stray dogs and also attending calls of sick and injured animals with their limited resources. With the help of Unity Way of Barda, they have built full fledged and proper operation theatre.

Stray bitches become very aggressive and start attacking children and people walking on the roads as they want to protect their puppies. Thinking about these puppies and their mothers, V CARE provided a special underground enclosure for them to live separately with their little ones and enjoy their motherhood.

VCARE have been very successful with the Animal Birth Control Programme funded by the Vadodara Mahanagar Seva Sadan. Till now, they have sterilised over 1822 canines.
तेरहवाँ महावीर अवार्ड समारोह संपन्न
करणा एवं अर्हित्रा के क्षेत्र में सामाजिक सेवा करने वाले हेतु सम्मानित

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन
पश्चिम अनुभाग -1
संख्या-3182/37-1-10-11(29)/2001
संबंधित : विद्याधीन 5 जूलाई 2010

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका

भारत संघ संस्कृति और विद्यालय, नई दीली, नई दीली,
अध्ययन एवं अभियान संस्कृति

नाम : पश्चिम अनुभाग -1

1. मा.पंडुकरंग मनी
2. प्रमुख संविधेय समिति, नई दीली, नई दीली, संस्कृति
3. प्रमुख संविधेय समिति, नई दीली, नई दीली, संस्कृति
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आदेश
उ.ए.शासन, पश्चिम अनुभाग -1 के निदेश/अधिकृत नं.3548/37-1-10-11
(29)/2001 निर्देश 28-7-2010 भरत महानवीर राष्ट्रीय महोत्स, उ.ए. के संसर्ग संविधा में संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के निदेशक विशेष अधिकृत 6.8.2008 के तद्नांत में भारत संघ संस्कृति और विद्यालय के अनुसार कर्त्तव्य विभाग नं.285/2008/9, निर्देश 28-3-2009 को तात्कालिक प्राप्ति से भंडाब बनाना है।

(पत्र कुमार)

वित्तीय विभाग, देशराष्ट्र

मंडल 772/पश्चिम अनुभाग -1/10-11

1. अ. अहिंसा अभ्यास, एलीसी, म. प. संविधेय भाषा, प. नागर, देशराष्ट्र
2. प्रमुख संविधेय समिति, नई दीली, नई दीली, संस्कृति
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13. प्रमुख संविधेय समिति, नई दीली, नई दीली, संस्कृति
**LET’S CHUCK THE PLASTIC BAG**

I am standing at the grocery store waiting for my things to be billed — mutely watching an endless number of plastic bags being used to pack items for every customer. Even after all the hue and cry about the environment, we go about our usual routine and think it is someone else’s problem, not realising that we are contributing very much to it. I helplessly handed out the cloth bags that I brought from my house.

With global warming on the rise, we have to do every bit that we can to save the environment. The little that we can do without much effort from our side is to say “no” to plastic bags. It does not cost us anything, just a small practice of carrying our own bags to the shopping malls/grocery stores. We would contribute much by just not using plastic bags.

Many countries and States are debating a ban on plastic bags or taxing their use. China and Bangladesh have banned plastic bags, while Ireland has reduced the number of plastic bags being used to pack items for every customer. Even re-use the plastic bags that are piling up at our house. If we really give a try, very little effort is required.

Most of us have the excuse of saying that we need the plastic bags to line our trash cans. Every house has a good store of unused plastic bags, which only keeps increasing by the day (even after the use for the trash cans). There are many alternatives for the garbage, if we really think about it. Ninety per cent of the time, it is only dry waste that we throw away. We can use paper bags or cardboard boxes that come with some groceries, like cornflakes, cereals, etc.

Another option would be to re-use the plastic bags that are used for packing rice, wheat, bread, dal, etc. What would we do if every plastic bag was charged at, say, Rs 10 or if plastic bags were banned by the government? Would we not seriously think of alternatives and find our way through? As a common man, there is much more to be done to protect the environment — compost your waste, reduce your carbon footprint, say ‘no’ to plastic bottles and other plastic products, plant more trees, plan for rainwater harvesting and so on. The list can go on. But let us take the first step.

**CARRY A CLOTH BAG**

Our lifestyle is such that we go unprepared for any shopping, as every shop provides us with easy-to-use plastic bags. The best alternative would be to always take our own cloth bags whenever we go out. Or even re-use the plastic bags that are piling up at our house. If we really give a try, very little effort is required.

Still, bullfighting buffs and Spanish conservatives have taken the drama very seriously, seeing a stinging anti-Spanish rebuke in the grass roots, anti-bullfighting drive which started in the region last year. But Joan Puigcercas, a lawmaker from a Catalan pro-independence party, insisted that this was not about politics or national identity but rather “the suffering of the animal. That is the question, nothing more.”

He said that even though attendance at bullfights is on the decline in Spain it would be morally wrong to sit back and just let the Spanish national pastime die a natural death. However, the Catalan regional president, Jose Montilla, said that the Catalonia should have done just that - let social customs evolve to the point where bullfighting would vanish on its own, rather than legislate an end to it and deny people’s right to choose whether to go the ring.

“I voted against the ban because I believe in freedom,” Montilla said.

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**FIRST MAJOR REGION SPANISH BANS BULLFIGHTING**

**SPAIN:** Lawmakers in Catalonia outlawed bullfighting, making it Spain’s first major region to ban the deadly, centuries-old ballet between matador and beast after heated debate that pitted animal rights against a pillar of traditional culture. Cheers broke out in the local 135-seat legislature after the speaker announced the ban had passed 68-to-55 with nine abstentions.

The ban will take effect in 2012 in the northeastern coastal region whose capital is Barcelona. Catalonia is a powerful, wealthy area with its own language and culture and a large degree of self-rule. Many in Spain have seen the pressure here for a bullfighting ban as a further bid by Catalonia to stand out from the rest of the country. The practical effect of the ban will be limited: Catalonia has only one functioning bullring, in Barcelona, while another disused one is being turned into a shopping mall. It stages 15 fights a year which are rarely sold out, out of a nationwide total of roughly 1,000 bouts per season.