Illegal transport of cattle across the border has been a serious issue in the recent times. The maximum amount of cruelty happens during these transportations. The Board has discussed this issue in its various meetings and addressed the same to the Ministry. In turn, the point was brought home by the Animal Welfare Division of the Ministry of Environment and Forests to a letter forwarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the department highlighted “serious problem of howards transients in lieu of smuggled cattle in Chittagong area”. The money, the letter emphasized, funds Islamic terror groups and their sleeper agents in the country. National security demands that cattle smuggling to Bangladesh and out of it is one of the inputs, MHA has alerted State Governments.

Recently Uttar Pradesh Government Officially notified the ILLEGAL CATTLE BREEDING. In Manipur, namely cattle trade, could be a source of terror funding and a substantial part of the Rs 15,000 crores illegal trade being funded is from terror funding tactics largely below the intelligence scanner. It is also a highly profitable trade of rearing sheep, training “peripherals” and recruits the active person in the terror link.

The U.P. Government had shown similar concern over the issue two years ago. On August 26, 2006, the then Director-General of Police, Mr. Basant Kumar Srivastava wrote to the Border Management, MHA, had claimed in a circular that “animals smuggled from West Bengal border number as high as 50 lakh to 60 lakh a year”. It also noted that “officers in Bangladesh regularize this illegal smuggling of cattle by levying 500 to 1000 takas per head of animal and thereafter hand over its ownership to smugglers.”

The trade, sources claim, could be generating Rs 14,000 crores to Rs 15,000 crore per annum. The operations involve a strong tunnel-shaped network running through Rajajhnath, Punjab, HP, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and parts of MP. It forms one of the biggest smuggling routes from Bangladesh.

The Board has addressed this issue with various government agencies and recently with railways also. The outcome of law and order is to pave a better way for animal welfare.

From the Secretary’s desk

ILLEGAL CATTLE SMUGGLING

BANGLAORE: A bill to bring about a blanket ban on slaughter of milch animals and draught cattle received approval of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly amidst stiff resistance put up by the opposition.

The bill was passed by voice vote in the House after a five-hour discussion when members of the opposition suggested that it be withdrawn, while members of the ruling party appreciated it in the interest of preserving the rich cattle wealth of the state.

The Karnataka Government has brought forth the bill, as made out by Chief Minister and Minister for Home on three counts — to ensure that the ban on cattle slaughter is in consonance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Constitution.

The Chief Minister said, the State Government had not brought forth the legislation to put down the interests of any community or section of the people. ‘There are similar legislation in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and several other states. Our aim is to save the cattle wealth for the benefit of the farming community and the people. It should be noted that even former Prime Minister, the late Indira Gandhi, had written to all State governments in 1982 suggesting a total ban on slaughter of cattle. Severe penalties have been incorporated in the legislation only to ensure an effective enforcement’.

The Home Minister, who headed a three-member Cabinet sub-committee which went into all aspects of the prevailing legislation, the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation Act of 1964, and thereafter drafted the new legislation, Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill, 2010, said the new bill had been brought about following the demand from a large section of the people. “We had brought forth certain amendments to the earlier Act in the Belgium session of the legislature and thereafter, withdrew it only to bring forth a more comprehensive legislation.”

Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader and senior member, who spoke at length against the bill, said there was nothing comprehensive in the new legislation and the earlier law, which had stood the test for nearly 50 years should suffice. If need be, the Government could have always brought forth some amendments to the earlier Act, rather than bring forth “a draconian measure”.

MORE VARIETIES SHUN DISSECTION OF ANIMALS

NEW DELHI: Much to the relief of animal lovers, many universities in India have begun dissection of animals for zoology experiments in their labs, as the University Grants Commission (UGC) nulls a ban on it.

Many universities including the Nalanda Open University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Pondicherry University, Bharathiar University, Kakatiya University and Jamia Millia Islamia have already ended animal dissections or are in the process of phasing it out.

“We welcome their initiatives as the University Grants Commission is still to decide on considering a ban in this regard”, Ms. Anuradha Sawhney, an activist with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA), India said.

“There are several alternatives such as computer -- generated virtual dissection programmes, observation of animals in field studies and other humane methods of study”, she said.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals had written to universities across the country that still use dissection in zoology courses, urging them to switch to ‘humane, non-animal alternatives’.

Stressing on the need for a ban on dissection of animals for zoology experiments, the activist said, “Dissection can have a devastating impact on the environment by decimating wild population of insects and amphibians”.

“Published studies show that non-animal methods of learning anatomy and physiology were as good, and in many cases, better than using animals”, Ms. Sawhney said.

VERMICOMPOST TRAINING IN THIRU VI KA COLLEGE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The department of Zoology, Thiru Vi Ka Government Arts College organized a free training programme on vermicompost construction and vermicompost preparation recently. This programme was organized as part of the ongoing National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi. The training cum seminar function was presided over by Dr. P. Subramanian, Principal of the College. The training programme was inaugurated by Er K Varatharajan, Director of Eknora International.

Dr.J.A.John Paul of Sri Kailishwari College, Sivakasi was the resource person. In his lecture he elaborated the role of vermicomposting in converting solid waste into substance. He added that it is not difficult to construct a vermicompost and also the maintenance of the bed. Prizes were also distributed to the winners of essay and drawing competition on climate change.

WILDLIFE DOING WELL IN STATE

CHENNAI: Wildlife officials and activists are content with the increased sightings of elephants and leopards in Theni, Valparai and adjoining forests. The field officials mentioned that the wildlife census had indicated a positive sign in the breeding of wild animals in the state. Particularly in Chinnamanur range of Theni, the sightings were satisfactory opened wildlife sources. Similarly the indirect evidences of carnivores and elephants were encouraging in the Annamalai Tiger Reserve and the synchronized report by the Wildlife Institute of India will give the final tally of fauna, Mr. H. Basavaraju, Field Director, ATR said.
Radio Collar fitted to Tigress Falls Off

Kolkata: Animal instinct seems to have won over human intervention in one particular case as a pair of tigers detached the radio-collar fastened onto a tigress. So we went into the forest area to investigate. By tracing the collar via an antenna we found that it had fallen off, said Subrat Mukherjee, field director of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve (STR).

The collar will be fastened to another animal after the nuts and bolts have been changed, Shri. Mukherjee added. So far, radio collars have been fastened to two tigresses as a part of the tiger census.

The project, for which the reserve paid Rs.35 lakhs to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), involves the tagging of 8 tigers within the reserve that will be monitored for about a year by experts of the institute and officials of the forest department.

While the instance of a radio collar falling off is not uncommon (there have been 17 such incidents all over the country), concerns have been raised about the success of the initiative in the Sunderbans. In December 2007, a tigress was fitted with a radio collar which stopped functioning in just over three months, after the animal had roamed an area of 35 sq.km. Although the cause of the failure was not determined, it is speculated that a "Saline water shock" could be responsible.

CD on Animal Welfare Soon

Chennai: In a bid to sensitise enforcement agencies, government bodies, school children and the public on animal welfare issues, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) plans to release a compact disc, compiled by experts, on the topic.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Shri. D. Rajasekar, IFS, Director of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve (STR), said that the CD would highlight animal welfare issues and its legal framework to help sensitise people about increasing instances of cruelty against animals.

"There is gross violation of laws and enough importance is given to implementation of rules, to protect domestic animals," Shri. Rajasekar said. Most of the time, law enforcers themselves are not aware of the laws, he said.

Plea Against Animal Sacrifice

Agartala: Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Hon'ble MP has appealed to stop animal sacrifice in Tripura’s temples. This issue has sparked a debate with animal lovers supporting her while others dead against stopping of age-old traditions.

"We are taking up the opinion of the royal family, state government, priests and the civil society over Smt. Maneka Gandhi’s request to stop animal sacrifice in the temples," South Tripura District Magistrate, Shri Swapan Saha said.

A large number of animals, including buffaloes, goats and sheep are sacrificed in the Tripura temples.

People for Animals (PFA) Chairperson, Smt. Gandhi, in recent letters to the district magistrates of South and West Tripura districts asked them to stop ‘cruel killing of animals in the temples’.

On Oct. 15, 1949, the erstwhile princely state of Tripura merged with India through an agreement signed between Kanchan Prabha Devi, then regent maharani, and the Governor General of India.

The agreement made it obligatory for the Tripura Government to continue the sponsorship of temples ran earlier by Maharajahs which would be continued by the Tripura Government.

According to historian and columnist, Shri.Jayanta Bhattacharya the controversy is an old one. ‘Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, who visited princely Tripura more than seven times, was close to the animal loving king, wrote a play ‘Bisharjan’ (emersion), disapproving the animal sacrifice in a temple in southern Tripura,’ Bhattacharya stated.

Apologies

Henna: For the last three days they were not aware of the laws, he said.

Implementation of rules and regulations for the benefit of elephants is pending consideration before the Rajasthan Government to continue the sponsorship of temples run earlier by Maharajahs to be continued by the Rajasthan Government, the counsel for the parties, we dispose of the present petition.

The agreement made it obligatory for the Rajasthan Government to continue the sponsorship of temples run earlier by Maharajahs which would be continued by the Rajasthan Government.

It is lastly urged that elephants may not be controlled by wooden "ankush" if required.

Care of Elephants:

(1) The owner shall arrange for medical check-ups of the mahout staff responsible for the treatment of the animal and our order is in consonance to the guidelines framed by the Government of Rajasthan, the competent authority under Wild Life (Protection) Act thus aforesaid issue may be decided by the concerned competent authority.

(2) The CD would highlight animal welfare issues and its legal framework to help sensitise people about increasing instances of cruelty against animals.

(3) Elephants must be fitted with radium tags and the CD would highlight animal welfare issues and its legal framework to help sensitise people about increasing instances of cruelty against animals.

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The CD would highlight animal welfare issues and its legal framework to help sensitise people about increasing instances of cruelty against animals.

"There is gross violation of laws and enough importance is given to implementation of rules, to protect domestic animals," Shri. Rajasekar said. Most of the time, law enforcers themselves are not aware of the laws, he said.

It is submitted that pursuant to the orders passed by this court, the Government of Rajasthan has framed Guidelines. All the parties concerned have shown their satisfaction towards Guidelines issued in the interest of elephants.

So far as issue of ownership of elephants is concerned, since separate action has already been initiated by the Government of Rajasthan, the affairs of elephants may be managed as per the Guidelines issued by the Government. It is further submitted that issue of ownership of elephants is pending consideration before the competent authority under Wild Life (Protection) Act thus aforesaid issue may be decided by the concerned competent authority.

It is lastly urged that elephants may not be controlled by wooden "ankush" if required.

In view of submissions made by learned counsel for the parties, we dispose of the present PIL with the directions that till the Rules are framed by the Government of Rajasthan, the affairs of elephants may be managed as per the Guidelines issued by the Government.

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Cruelty Cases in the month of March, 2010 and Action Taken by AWBI

27 March, 2010

Indiscriminate killing of stray dogs in the Districts of Bankura and West Midnapore, West Bengal

Shri Asok M. Chakrabarti, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Secretariat, Kolkata – 700 001.
The Director General of Police, Office of the Director General of Police, Police Headquarters Kolkata – 700 001.
The Director, Animal Husbandry Department Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata – 700 001.
The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata – 700 001.
The District Collector, Collectorate Office, W.B.
The District Collector, Collectorate Office, P.O. & Dist: West Midnapore, West Bengal
The Superintendent of Police, Office of the Superintendent of Police, P.O. & Dist: West Midnapore
The Superintendent of Police, Office of the Superintendent of Police, P.O. & Dist: Bankura

27 March, 2010

Brutal killing of stray dogs by Kotagiri Municipal Corporation, Dist: Nilgiris

The Executive Officer, Municipal Corporation of Kotagiri, Municipal Corporation Office Dist: Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu
The District Collector, Collectorate Office P.O. & Dist: Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu
The Director, Municipal Administration Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Edappal, Kozhikode, Kerala
The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
The Superintendent of Police, Office of the Superintendent of Police, P.O. & Dist: Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu


The District Magistrate, Office of the District Magistrate, P.O. Ludhiana, Punjab
The Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Chandigarh
The Director General of Police, Office of the Director General of Police, Govt. of Punjab
The Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department, Govt. of Punjab, Secretariat, Chandigarh
The Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh
The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Office of the Deputy Inspector General of Police P.O. Ludhiana, Punjab
The Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Police, P.O. Ludhiana, Punjab

8th March, 2010

Illegal dog racing in the village of Punjab

The District General Police, Chandigarh, Punjab
The PCFCC, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh

Contd. in the next issue

The Animal Welfare Board of India is an umbrella of the SPCAs / AWOs and Animal Welfare Workers. The Board encourages Animal Welfare activities, advises the Central and State Governments on issues relating to Animal Welfare, particularly the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and also helps to formulate Animal Welfare Policies / Legislations.

AWBI NEWSLETTER

(Monthly)

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Karnataka Assembly adopts Anti-Cow Slaughter Bill
More Varsities Shun Dissection of Animals
Wildlife Doing Well in State
CD on Animal Welfare soon

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