

WPC 18220 OF 2010 LINK

COW PROTECTION

PIL seeks protection for cows

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Cuttack, Dec. 2: Orissa High Court has admitted a PIL seeking protection of cows and prohibition of slaughter of cows, particularly that of old ones in the state.

“Slaughtering of the uneconomic old cows is nothing but cruelty which is prohibited. But slaughtering of cows (also bulls and bullocks) over the age of 14 years is being allowed in the state,” the petition states seeking direction to the state government to prevent it and take care of them under a state sponsored programme.

Jayanti Das (46), a resident of Cuttack, has filed the petition invoking the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1966. Das had earlier submitted a petition to chief minister Naveen Patnaik to bring in a bill to enforce a law in the state for protection of cows and prevention of cow slaughter.

“When the state is protecting street dogs from being killed despite them tormenting pedestrians, why should cows not be prevented from being killed?” the petition questioned.

“While admitting the PIL, the two-judge bench of Chief Justice V. Gopal Gowda and Justice B.N. Mohapatra has issued notices to the state government and to the Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers’ Federation (OMFED),” petitioner counsel B.K. Ragada told **The Telegraph** today.

“The court, while issuing the notices, expected the state government to file a reply within eight weeks and the OMFED by three weeks,” Ragada said.

According to the petition, states like Karnataka and Punjab have already implemented a law for protection and ban on cow slaughter. In Punjab, a cow protection cell is coming up in the office of the director-general of police. An officer of the rank of inspector general would head the cell. Cow is vital for the generation of revenue and profit for the OMFED through production of milk and dairy products. So, when the cow is a partner in progress and generates revenue, it is obligatory on the part of OMFED to share its profit with the animals in their hour of need (old age ailment) and sponsor a programme to take care of them, the PIL contends.

The petition has sought direction to the dairies to keep old cows and give shelter to cows on the streets.

Protection of the old cows is guaranteed under the Constitution of India, the petition said, citing the Directive Principles of State Policy.

“The state shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle,” Article 48 says.