

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding amendment to Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (MATHURA): My subject is regarding the amendments in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. I am sure that many animal lovers, especially the younger generation, will be very happy that I am bringing this subject in the House today. Article 51(a) of the Constitution states: 'it is the fundamental duty of every Indian citizen to protect and improve the natural environment (forest, rivers, lakes and wildlife) and to have compassion for living creatures'.

Nonetheless, numerous incidents of animal cruelty have been brought to light through media in recent years. Brutal crimes against animals such as the death of a pregnant elephant that ate a pineapple with explosive in it, dog beaten to death, puppies set on fire, dragging dogs tied to a scooter, rape of cow and execution of monkeys putting them on fire just for their own pleasure, are reported from across the country.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is a legislation that exclusively makes the provision to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is now more than six decades old legislation with no major amendments in recent times. Monetary fines imposed for crimes against animals continue to be meagre in the range of Rs.10 to Rs.100. This could be one reason the legislation has not been able to act as a deterrent to animal cruelty. Severe punishment should be levied on these cruel people.

As informed to me, the Government has received many suggestions, petitions, requests from various organisations working for animal rights to increase the existing penalty. The Government acknowledged that penalties prescribed in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 are minimal and do not act as a deterrent. The 261st Report of the Law Commission had laid down some guidelines and listed suggestions in 2015 which have not yet been incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is high time India had a stronger animal protection law to prevent cruelties. My request to the Government is that it must strengthen the country's animal protection law making amendments to Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्यगण, आप अपनी बात को एक मिनट में समाप्त कीजिए । एक मिनट बाद घंटी बज जाएगी । इसके लिए सभी सदस्य रेडी रहें । जिन माननीय सदस्यों को कल मौका नहीं मिला था, उनको आज मौका मिलेगा और जिनको कल बोलने का मौका मिल गया था, उनको आज बोलने का मौका मिलने का चांस कम है ।

... (व्यवधान)

13.02 hrs

(Shri N. K. Premachandran *in the Chair*)