

Need to remove country-breed dogs in Tamil Nadu from the list of wild animals and to set up 'Country-breed Dog Welfare Board' - laid

DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR (PERAMBALUR): In Tamil Nadu the livelihood of more than 50 lakh people living in the districts of Virudhunagar, Erode, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Tuticorin, Salem, Namakkal Theni, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Tanjore, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Madurai are dependent on the indigenous breed of dogs. During the 'Chithirai and "Aadi" festivals celebrated in the northern and southern districts of Tamil Nadu, respectively, these country breed dogs are used to hunt rabbits and the villagers offer the same before God in temples. These Hindu festivals are held annually with religious fervour upholding the cultural ethos. Similar to the Jallikattu bulls, these indigenous breed of dogs are attached to the lives and cultures of Tamils. This indigenous breed of dogs have in them a sense of caution, loyalty, boldness and adaptability that is why our ancient kings had a separate "Country breed dog force" in their army. If two or three dogs come together, they can even defeat a horse or an elephant. Officials of forest department put so many restrictions and threats to the tribal people living in forests and adjoining areas for using country-breed dogs for hunting and to drive away the dangerous animals from entering into their habitats. As the rabbits and country-breed dogs are in the list of wild animals, and forest officials put a ban on such activities continuously. I urge that the Union Government should give approval for removing the country-breed dogs and rabbits from the list of wild animals as per the long pending demand of the people who rear such breeds. There is no recognition or permission for reproducing country-breed dogs in a traditional way. I urge that Union Government should give approval for this on an urgent basis. There should be a separate law for protection of country-breed dogs besides setting up a 'Country-breed Dog Welfare Board' at the national level by the Union Government. Reproduction centers should be opened in all the districts for protection and reproduction of these indigenous breeds of dogs. Drugs should be provided free of cost to all the district veterinary hospitals for treating dangerous diseases like brain fever seizures, rabies in country-breed dogs caused by 9 types of viruses including the parvovirus. I urge that indigenous breed of dogs should be aptly used in important force like the Army, Police and disaster relief force.