

>

Title: Need to modernize traditional bullock-carts by Ministry of Science and Technology with a view to check cruelty against animals.

SHRI MOHAN JENA (JAJPUR): The Ox-Cart or Bullock-cart continues to be used as a mode of transport on which many people residing in rural areas continue to depend for agricultural produce, fodder for animals, carrying fire wood and persons etc. Since time immemorial, the Bullock cart has become a symbol of rural India, the face of which has not changed in the last sixty years of Independence. The benefit of Bullock cart remains with the fact that it can travel where no road exists. However, due to rough and uneven rural roads which further deteriorate during and after the rains, the bullocks used in the cart become exposed to severe beating and

cruelty. The wheels of these carts do not have balls or a bearing and do not use the rubber tyres which can reduce the existing stress, considerably on the animals towing the cart. I, therefore, urge the Ministry of Science and Technology to give utmost priority to modernize the traditional Bullock-cart without any delay and to ensure that the cost of the modernized vehicle does not exceed Rs. 10,000/- Rural artisans who *repair* the bullock cart can be imparted training for repairing the modernized cart.