

>

Title: Need to exempt 'Jallikattu' from the purview of the Notification dated 11-7-2011 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Jallikattu is the oldest ancient sports and festival being celebrated in Tamil Nadu since centuries ago and is beloved to our ancestors. The annual Jallikattu is very famous in Madurai, Alanganallur and other places. It is mostly celebrated during Pongal festival season. Jallikattu is considered as a bravery game (in Tamil, it is called as Veera Vilaiyattu) i.e. valour of Tamils are exposed in the game. The persons/tamers try to control the bull, chase it and hold on its hump for a few minutes and once the bull comes under his control, the respective person is declared winner. Some special award/cash prize is given to the winner. The bulls are not harassed, ill-treated or abused in the game. Jallikattu is also held as part of the religious ritual during the festivals in the temple. Bulls participating in the Jallikattu are registered with the State authorities and only with their prior permission, they are permitted. State Government gives full security and protection to this game in order to avoid any violence or untoward incidents. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and Animal Welfare Activists' observers remain present when the event is held.

However, Ministry of Environment and Forests recently banned that Bears, Monkeys, Tigers, Panthers, Lions and Bulls could not be exhibited or trained as performing animals. Any attempt to ban the Jallikattu will be against the wishes and interests of the Tamil people and hurt their religious feelings and sentiments and they vehemently oppose inclusion of Bull in the Orders issued by the Union Government.

In this regard, it is to state that the Hon'ble Supreme Court by respecting the sentiments of crores of people of Tamil Nadu allowed holding the game by issuing some strict guidelines and there are scrupulously followed by the Organizers. This measure may protect the animals from any kind of torture.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to respect the sentiments of crores of Tamil population in the country, understand their traditional importance of this game and exempt 'Jallikattu' from the purview of Notification dated 11 July 2011 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.