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Title: Need to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Madam Speaker, we have seen how Shaktiman, the police horse in Dehradun succumbed to injuries recently. It is not just Shaktiman, but there are hundreds and thousands of animals which are subjected to cruelty day-in-and-day-out and people either go scot-free or come out freely by paying a paltry penalty of Rs. 50 prescribed under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

There are organizations working in the area protecting animals and Blue Cross of Hyderabad is one such organization which is working in the area of animal welfare for the last more than two decades. This organization and similar such organizations are receiving complaints of animal cruelty – from acid attacks, brutal stoning, hunting, beating, illegal transport and even poisoning – everyday. It is happening in spite of the fact that our Constitution says that it is the Fundamental Duty of every citizen to be compassionate to all living creatures. Secondly, animals are one of the most important components, other than plants and microbes, of our ecosystem. So, protection of animals is all the more important for survival and existence of humankind.

Penalty imposed for abuse of animals under Prevention of Cruelty Act is too meagre. Hence, law enforcement agencies, animal welfare organizations and activists have been demanding for increasing the penalty to deter cruelty against animals. It is pertinent to mention that Wildlife Protection Act has been amended to strengthen penal provisions, but not the PCA.

In view of this, I request the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take steps to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and increase stringent penalties for abuse of animals.

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत और

श्री भैरों प्रसाद मिश्र को श्री जैदेव गल्ला द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।