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Title: Need to review ban on bullock cart race held in Pune district of Maharashtra.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (SHIRUR): Thank you Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I have already requested the hon. Speaker to allow me to speak in Marathi as I am going to talk about the bullock-cart race, which is known as *Jallikattu* or bullock-cart race in various parts of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and other States.

*SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, Bullock-cart race is very famous and it is a favorite sport of rural Maharashtra. Just like Jalikattu in Tamil Nadu, it is a very favourite sport of farmers in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh as well. Unfortunately, for the last 4 years, it has been banned by a Supreme Court order. The Supreme Court has given the verdict of banning this sport on the basis of a G R issued by Ministry of Environment and Forest. Subsequently, Government of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu framed new laws in their respective states and had sent them for the Presidential consent. After Presidential consent, 'Jali Kattu' resumed in the state of Tamil Nadu and it is permitted even in Karnataka. But it is still banned in Maharashtra for the last five years.

Some NGOs especially PETA have challenged the practice of this sport in the Supreme Court through a petition filed against it. The State and Central Government have put their efforts in this regard. Hence, I would like to request the State and Central Government to engage some

good Supreme Court lawyers when this case comes up for hearing in a month or two. Our farmers are very fond of this sport and that is why I have been pursuing this matter with Central Government for the last 5 years. The Central Government should bring a new law in this regard so that any kind of ban would never be imposed on it. I would also like to request the State Government and State Environment Department to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 accordingly to resume this favourite sport of the farmers. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

S/Shri Arvind Sawant,

Rajan Vichare and

Rahul Shewale are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao.