

The Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying & Fisheries (DAHDF) continues to receive large number of representations from various sources. The representations received are generally pertaining to the following:

- a) Declaration of cow as a National animal
- b) Preservation and conservation of cattle in the country
- c) Ban on cow slaughter
- d) Selective breeding of bovines specially cattle
- e) Cruelty to animals including cows and heeding of stray and unproductive animals
- f) Smuggling of cattle to Bangladesh and Pakistan

In this regard it is stated that mandate of DAHDF is twofold:

- Enhancing production and productivity of milch animals
- Ensuring availability of quality milk (and milk products), in the country.

The exact position in respect of the issues raised in the representations from various sources, as mentioned above, is as under:

- (a) Decision regarding declaring cow as a national animal is not within the purview of this Department.
- (b) For development and conservation of indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds, the following initiatives have been taken up by the Department:
  - “Rashtriya Gokul Mission” an initiative under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development has been launched with the aim to conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds. Details are available on website [www.dahd.nic.in-guidelines-large ruminants](http://www.dahd.nic.in-guidelines-large ruminants).
  - National Kamdhenu Breeding Centres are being set, up one in the North and one in South India, which will serve as gene banks and repositories of indigenous breeds. Details are available on website [www.dahd.nic.in-guidelines-large ruminants](http://www.dahd.nic.in-guidelines-large ruminants).
- (c) With regard to ban on cow slaughter: it is stated that under the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States, {Article 246(3) of the Constitution} preservation of animal is a matter on which the State legislature has exclusive powers to legislate. The relevant entry viz Entry 15 of the List –II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution reads as follows “Preservation protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases; veterinary training practices”. List of the States indicating status on ban of cow slaughter is annexed.
- (d) Breeding of bovines, including cattle, is regulated by State Governments as per their respective State Breeding Policy. Formulation of bovine breeding policy is a State subject

and most of the States have formulated a State specific bovine breeding policy for their development within the State and in order to check indiscriminate crossbreeding.

The National Livestock Policy, 2013 has been approved by the Government of India, after consultation with State Governments and various stake holders, and circulated among the States as a “guideline”.

- (e) As regard cruelty to animals, including cows, and heeding of stray and unproductive animals: it is stated that mandate with regard to animal welfare issues lies with Animal Welfare Board of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- (f) Smuggling of contraband and plants and live animals, including cattle, to foreign countries (including Bangladesh and Pakistan) is not within the purview of this Department.

**STATES/UNION TERRITORIES HAVING LEGISLATIONS ON  
RESTRICTING/PROHIBITING/ BANNING SLAUGHTER OF  
ANIMALS INCLUDING MILCH ANIMALS LIKE COWS**

<b>Name of the States</b>	<b>Name of the Union Territories</b>
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Andaman and Nicobar Island
2. Assam	2. Chandigarh
3. Bihar	3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
4. Goa.	4. Daman - Diu
5. Gujarat	5. Puducherry
6. Haryana	
7. Himachal Pradesh	
8. Jammu & Kashmir	
9. Karnataka	
10. Madhya Pradesh	
11. Maharashtra	
12. Orissa	
13. Punjab	
14. Rajasthan	
15. Sikkim	
16. Tamil Nadu	
17. Tripura	
18. Uttar Pradesh	
19. West Bengal	
20. Manipur	
21. National Capital Territory of Delhi	
22. Uttrakhand	
23. Jharkhand	
24. Chhattisgarh	

**STATES/UNION TERRITORIES HAVING NO LEGISLATIONS  
ON RESTRICTING/PROHIBITING/ BANNING SLAUGHTER OF  
ANIMALS INCLUDING MILCH ANIMALS LIKE COWS**

**Name of the States:**

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Meghalaya
4. Mizoram
5. Nagaland

**Name of the Union Territories:**

1. Lakshadweep