

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 200 /2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

MANJEET BHARDWAJ & ORS.

.....Applicant

Versus

GOVT. NCT OF DELHI & ORS.

.....Respondent(s)

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Through



PUJA KALRA

Standing Counsel MCD

Chamber No. 430, Block-I

Delhi High Court, New Delhi.

Mobile- 9312839323

NEW DELHI

DATED: 29/02/2024

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH

O.A. No. 200/2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

MANJEET BHARDWAJ & ORS

PETITIONER

VERSUS

GOVT. NCT OF DELHI & ORS.

RESPONDENTS

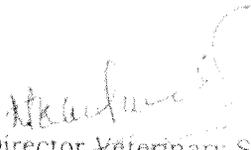
**REPLY ON BEHALF OF MCD TO THE INTERLOCATORY APPLICATION FILED
ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.10-15.**

That this Hon'ble Tribunal vides its order dated 06.02.2024 directed to the respondent to file the reply to the averments made in the application by the above mentioned respondent.

1. That the illegal Dairies/ premises of the above mentioned respondents were sealed on dated 12.09.2022.
2. That the petitioners were caught using the properties dairy activity which is against the order of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in a matter of W.P.C no. 3791/2000 titled Common Cause Vs Union of India and WPC No. 697/2016 titled Sham Sharma vs Government of NCT & Ors.
3. That the properties/premises of the above mentioned petitioners falls under the urbanized area and not authorized for running the dairies.
4. That they can run the Dairy only in the authorized dairy colonies and the properties of the above mentioned respondents are not authorized for running the dairies.
5. That these are authorized dairy colonies which are as under:
 - A. Kakrola Dairy Colony
 - B. Nangli Sakrawati Dairy Colony
 - C. Goyla Dairy Colony
 - D. Ghogha Dairy Colony
 - E. Shahbad Dairy Colony

6. That the illegal dairies/premises were sealed for running of illegal dairies without Municipal trade license and action was initiated as per the DMC Act, 1957 and as per the direction issued in W.P.C no. 3791/2000 titled Common Cause Vs Union Of India and W.P.C No. 697/2016 titled Sham Sharma Vs Government of NCT & Ors.
7. That the request of the petitioners for de-sealing of their properties, they need to apply before the competent authority for de-sealing of their properties. The applications will be considered and decision will be taken as per the rule regulation and prevalent policy.

The above reply may be taken on record.


Dy, Director Veterinary Services

Narela Zone/MCD

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* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

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Date of Decision: 4th September, 2019

+ W.P.(C) 697/2016

SHAM SHARMA

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr.Anish Gupta, Mr.G.S.Thakur,
Adv.

Versus

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS

..... Respondents

Through: Mr.Sanjoy Ghose, ASC with Ms.Urvi
Mohan, Adv. for GNCTD.Mr.Giriraj Subramaniam, Adv. with Mr.Rohan
Jain, Adv. for R-3/DDA.Ms.Mini Pushkarna, Standing Counsel with
Ms.Swagata Bhyuan, Ms.Shiva Pandey,
Ms.Khushboo Nahar, Adv. for North DMC.Mr.Anil Grover, Standing Counsel with Mr.Tushar
Sannu, ASC, Ms.Noopur Singhal, Adv. for
NDMC.

Mr.Tushar Dahiya, ASC for R-8/EDMC.

+ W.P.(C) 7663/2017

S N BHARDWAJ

..... Petitioner

Through: Ms.K.Gayatri, Adv.

Versus

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA & ORS..... Respondents

Through: Ms.Manisha T.Karia, Adv. with
Ms.Sukhda Kalra, Mr.Shashank Mangal,
Mr.Aman Irani, Adv. for R-1.

Mr.Reshesh Mani Tripathi, Adv. for UOI.

Mr.Anuj Aggarwal, ASC with Mr.Atul Goel,
Dr.Purshottam Bansal for GNCTD.

Mr.Arjun Pant, Adv. for DDA.

Ms.Monika Arora, Adv. with Mr.Harsh Ahuja,
Mr.Kushal Kumar, Adv. for SDMC.

Ms.Mansi Gupta, Adv. for R-7/North MCD.
 Ms.Mini Pushkarna, Standing Counsel with
 Ms.Swagata Bhyuan, Ms.Shiva Pandey,
 Ms.Khushboo Nahar, Advs. for R-11/DUSIB.

+ W.P.(C) 459/2018 & C.M.No.1990/2018

GAURI MAULEKHI

..... Petitioner

Through: Ms.Ekta Sikri, Adv. with
 Mr.K.Gayatri, Ms.Priyanka, Advs.

Versus

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN
 DEVELOPMENT & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr.Sanjoy Ghose, ASC with Ms.Urvi
 Mohan, Adv. for GNCTD.

Mr.Nikhil Goel, Standing Counsel with
 Mr.Dushyant Sarna, Adv. for SDMC.

Ms.Mini Pushkarna, Standing Counsel with
 Ms.Swagata Bhyuan, Ms.Shiva Pandey,
 Ms.Khushboo Nahar, Advs. for R-3/North DMC.

Mr.Amit Sinha, Adv. for R-5/EDMC.

Ms.Sakshi Popli, Adv. with Ms.Samreen, Adv. for
 DPPC

Mr.Ajay Diggpaul, CGSC with Mr.Soumava
 Karmakar, Adv. for R-8.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.HARI SHANKAR

J U D G M E N T

: **D. N. Patel, Chief Justice (Oral)**

1. Writ Petition (Civil) No.697/2016 has been preferred with the following prayers:-

"a) Issue a Writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate Writ, order, or direction in the nature thereof, directing the Respondents to take all necessary actions to clean and regularly maintain the road, footpath and the sewage line

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between DDA Land, the Shivaiaaya Temple at village Rajpur Chhawani and Gurmandi area on one side, C.C. Colony on other side and also the adjoining areas;

b) Issue a writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate Writ, order, or direction in the nature thereof, directing the Respondents to remove illegal dairies operating at affected area including direction to the concerned Authorities to take necessary actions to resolve the issue of regular water clogging in order to prevent the spread of diseases like Dengue, Malaria and other such contagious diseases to the residents in the affected area.

c) Issue a of Mandamus or any other appropriate Writ directing the Respondents urgently to undertake regular fumigation drives, sanitation drives and anti-mosquito breeding drives on the affected area;

d) Direct the Respondents to evaluate the extent of the problem caused due to unhygienic conditions at the affected area and recommend measures required to deal with the problem effectively;

e) Appoint the High Level Court Monitored Co-ordination Committee to ensure effective co-ordination between the Governmental Authorities, for proper implementation of the laws and resolutions in the affected area;

f) Direct the Respondents to take steps with regard to guidelines of World Health organization and also by involving Administrative Authorities to suggest recommendation for various effective measures and also to monitor, check and control the whole situation;"

2. Prayers in the other writ petitions are also more or less to the same effect.

3. Having heard the learned counsel for the parties and looking into the facts of the case, it appears that several grievances have been raised by the petitioners about the illegal dairies which are in operation within the city of Delhi. Learned counsel for the petitioners have taken this Court through various annexures and orders passed by this Court, especially order dated 4th July, 2019, whereby several directions have been issued by this Court. Similarly, learned counsel for the petitioners have also tried to point out to this Court that the respondents have not taken effective steps to close the dairies which are being operated without licenses.

4. Moreover, it has been pointed out that Director, Animal Husbandry Unit, Government of NCT of Delhi has already issued a Circular/Office Memorandum dated 19th August, 2019 (annexed at Page-496 of the petition) to the effect that if any dairy farms have no license, they must be sealed and closed. The statistics, which are annexures to the writ petition, have also been referred to by the petitioners to show that hardly any action has been initiated by the respondents for sealing of the dairy farms or to disconnect their electricity connection.

5. We have heard the learned counsel for the respondents. Mr. Sanjoy Ghose, the learned ASC appearing for Government of NCT of Delhi in W.P.(C) No.459/2018 submits that a detailed status report has been filed in W.P.(C) No.697/2016 by the Director, Animal Husbandry Unit, Government of NCT of Delhi dated 31st August, 2019.

6. We have perused the said status report. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the said status report read as under:-

"3. That it is submitted that in pursuance of the directions passed by this Hon'ble Court, from time to time, the local

bodies have taken prompt action. The action taken during the period from 01.01.2019 to 15.08.2019 are - 6723 stray cattle have been impounded and deported to the Gausadan by the local bodies, 215 dairies have been sealed, 1365 prosecutions have been initiated by the local bodies under the provision of DMC Act, 1957, 829 complaints have been made by the local bodies to Delhi Police for lodging FIR u/s 289 of IPC, and u/s 98 of Delhi Police Act, and an amount of fine amounting Rs.6,48,970/- have been imposed by the local bodies on the defaulting units/individuals under DMC Act.

4. That it is also submitted that the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has imposed environmental compensation ranging from Rs. 2.0 Lakh to Rs. 4.0 Lakhs on 41 dairies, from 04.07.2019 to 15.08.2019."

7. In view of the aforesaid status report, it appears that:
- i) 6723 stray cattle have been impounded,
 - ii) 215 dairies have been sealed,
 - iii) 1365 actions have been initiated for the violation of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957,
 - iv) 829 complaints have been lodged under Section 289 of the IPC read with Section 98 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978,
 - v) Fine to the tune of Rs.6,48,970/- have been imposed,
 - vi) Delhi Pollution Control Committee has also imposed Environmental Compensation ranging from Rs.2 lacs to Rs.4 lacs on 41 dairies for the period running from 4th July, 2019 to 15th August, 2019,
 - vii) As per Animal Health and Welfare Policy, action will be initiated by the respondents,
 - viii) Unit Identification (UID) of cattle has also been constituted.

8. In view of the aforesaid, it appears that steps have been taken by the respondents and it is expected from the respondents that they shall continue to take action against illegal dairy farms as also take steps with regard to the cattle etc., as pointed out in the status report. If any dairy farm is being run without license, as per the aforesaid office memorandum dated 19th August, 2019, the respondents shall take action of sealing and then closing them down by disconnecting electricity, water and drainage connections.

9. With these observations, we see no reason to further monitor these cases and the writ petitions are, accordingly, disposed of. The pending applications are also disposed of.

10. The respondents will also appreciate the directions given by this Court and implement them. The petitioners are, however, given liberty to move this Court in case of any difficulty.

CHIEF JUSTICE

C.HARI SHANKAR, J

SEPTEMBER 04, 2019

'amb'

CWP 3791/2000

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI

CIVIL WRIT PETITION NO. 3791 OF 2000
with CWP No. 842/1997Date of decision: December 16, 2002CWP NO. 3791/2000

COMMON CAUSE (REGD SOCIETY

..... represented by Ms. Meera Bhatia, Advocate,
with Mr. Rajesh Mazumdar, Advocate.

versus

1. UNION OF INDIA
2. GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL
TERRITORY OF DELHI.
3. MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI
4. NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

.....represented by Mr. V.K. Shali, Advocate,
for Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
Mr. Vibhu Shankar, Advocate, for MCD.
Ms. Himu Kohli, Advocate, for NDMC.
Ms. Shell Sethi, Advocate, for NCRPB.
Ms. Geeta Mittal, Advocate, for DDA/DJB.
Mr. Raj Panjwani, Advocate, for Animal
Welfare Board of India.

CWP NO. 842/1997:

RAM PRATAP YADAV

.....represented by None.

versus

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

.....represented by Mr. Vibhu Shankar, Advocate:

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL DEV SINGH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R.S. SODHI.

1. Whether reporters of local newspapers be allowed to see the judgment ?
 2. Whether referred to the reporter or not ?
 3. Whether the judgment should be reported in the digest ?
- Yes
Yes

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CWP 3791/2000

ANIL DEV SINGH, J:

These two writ petitions were being listed together as both these petitions deal with the subject of stray cattle. While Civil Writ Petition No. 3791/2000 deals with menace of stray cattle, buffaloes and dogs, Civil Writ Petition No. 842/1997 highlights mismanagement of Goshalas where stray cattle after being rounded up are sent. CWP No. 3791/2000 seeks a direction to the respondents to take effective and appropriate steps to deal with the continuing menace of cattle and stray dogs on the roads. It also seeks a direction to the respondents to keep the roads free of loitering cattle and stray dogs. Besides, the petition seeks the levy of heavy penalty on the owners who allow their animals to squat and stray on the roads.

In CWP No. 842/1997, the petitioner seeks the issuance of an appropriate writ or direction to the respondent - Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), not only to initiate enquiry into alleged financial irregularities committed in Goshalas, but also to punish all persons involved in this alleged scandal.

By the predecessor bench's order dated August 31, 2001 in CWP No. 3791/2000, the writ petition was confined only to the menace of stray cattle to ensure that proper scheme and guidelines are prepared by the MCD and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to get rid of the problem so that the roads are made free from roaming cattle.

In CWP No. 3791/2000, it is stated that cows, bulls and stray dogs on the roads pose a serious menace. Cattle squat on the roads and hamper free flow of traffic, sometimes leading to accidents and loss of human lives. It is pointed out that at some traffic intersections there is a great concentration of cattle which prevents the pedestrians from crossing the intersections. It also prevents vehicles from passing through the intersections even on a green signal.

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CWP 3791/2000

Concentration of cattle causes traffic hazards and endangers life, be that of an animal or a human being. Presence of cattle on roads also causes filth and stench because of their excreta that becomes a breeding ground for various diseases.

Phenomena of stray cattle are attributed to the owners who abandon their livestock on roads in order to avoid feeding them. The petitioner in effect prays for elimination of menace of stray cattle, cows and bulls. It also seeks a direction to the respondents to remove stray cattle, cows and bulls on daily basis to shelter homes established for them, and to keep the roads clear from their menace. The writ petition also seeks a direction to the respondents to levy heavy penalty on the owners of stray animals.

It is not necessary to highlight the averments made in CWP No. 842/1997 as the aforesaid details of CWP No. 3791/2000 will also cover the details of CWP No. 842/1997 except with regard to the condition of Goshalas/Gosadans and cows, bulls and cattle which are caught by the MCD and sent there. According to the petitioner in CWP No. 842/1997, the MCD is providing Rs.75/- per day for each animal which is caught and sent to the Goshalas/Gosadans. It is alleged that the diet which is being provided by Goshalas to each animal is worth Rs.25/- only per day. The petition alludes to the fact that the condition of livestock that is handed over to Goshalas/Gosadans is pathetic. They suffer from various diseases and injuries. Birds are seen to be feeding from their injuries even their eyes. It is also alleged that the Gosadans/Goshalas sell these animals to slaughter houses. Even the MCD Employees are stated to be helping the Goshalas/Gosadans in the sale of animals to the abettoirs. It is further alleged that the animals are being subjected to cruelty.

At this stage, it may be pointed out that on September 29, 2000, the counsel for the MCD indicated that 89,149 cattle were rounded up and handed over to

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CWP 3791/2000

the Gosadans run by the NGOs. It was further stated that the closing balance of cattle as on September 29, 2000 in all the Gosadans was 8,516. According to the learned counsel, there was no account of 67,749 cattle that were handed over by the Gosadans to the NGOs. The stand of the MCD supports the plea of the petitioner that Gosadans/Goshulas are being mismanaged and that these establishments are avenues for personal gain and are committing number of irregularities.

In July, 1998, a report was prepared by Shri Raj Panjwani, Advocate, counsel for Animal Welfare Board of India on the subject of menace of abandoned cattle on Delhi roads. The report has been rendered keeping in view the history of Delhi and its people through various ages, political developments and population growth of Delhi.

The aforesaid report first talks of Mahabharata and makes a reference to the city called Indraprastha. According to the epic, the Kaurav king Dhritarastra gave a piece of land on the banks of river Yamuna to his nephews, the Pandava brothers, thinking that the land was worthless. The Pandavas are said to have founded a spectacular city Indraprastha at the site handed over to them by Dhritarastra. In the eighth century A.D., Dhilika was founded by Rajput kings to the south-west of Indraprastha. Delhi is believed to have derived its name from Dhilika. It was the capital of Tomar kings and was surrounded by a fort called Lok Kot, the remains of which are still visible. Thereafter, Dhilika was ruled by different rulers of different dynasties at different points of time in history. The location of Dhilika also kept on shifting. After the end of the Moghul rule in Delhi in 1803, Lord Lake defeated the Marathas in the battle of Patparganj near Delhi. Thereafter, the British shifted their capital in 1911 from Calcutta to Delhi. The shifting of capital to Delhi was to a great extent responsible for a change in the population pattern of Delhi. It also affected

rural way of life. In the beginning, six villages in and around Raisina hills were taken over for building the capital. By 1913, twenty-five more villages were acquired for the purpose of urban use. In 1981, 137 villages came within the fold of urbanisation. By now most of the villages except a few have been urbanised. Today the population of Delhi is nearing the figure of 1.80 crores (this figure is not part of the report). As an impact of urbanisation of the villages, the area under fodder plantation declined thereby making the feeding of livestock problematic. The increase in population led to an increased demand for milk, which, in turn, progressively increased the population of livestock to meet the demand. According to the 1981 Gazetteer of Delhi, development of seven dairy colonies was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture at a cost of R.35 lacs. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) also set up three dairy colonies in rural areas during 1966-77 for comprehensive dairy development and to provide employment to landless and marginal farmers. This was followed by revised scheme involving a total cost of Rs.10.9 crores for the development of ten dairy colonies with 61,214 cattle. The dairy colonies along with names, areas and capacity of the estimated stock in setting them up are listed as per below:-

S.No.	Colony/Village	Area (in acres)	Capacity (No. of cattle)	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
A. M.C.D.				
1.	Goela Khurd	105.00	9,360	129
2.	Kakrala	16.50	2,720	40
3.	Nangloi-Sakrawati	55.00	4,800	79
4.	Jharoda	13.00	2,330	31
5.	Bhalswa	60.00	6,640	79
6.	Sahibabad Daulatpur	39.50	4,740	48
7.	Gharshi	231.00	13,400	246
Sub-Total (A)		520.88	43,900	652

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CWP 3791/2000

were 2,655 unauthorised dairies comprising of 16,789 buffaloes and 13,954 cows. Today the figure would be much more as is apparent from the fact that up to September 2000 stray cattle to the tune of 89,149 were rounded up. The details compiled by the MCD make it clear that there was a disparity between what was envisaged by the planner and what was realised after execution at the ground level. The unauthorised dairies being run to cater to the requirement of milk in Delhi is responsible to a very great extent for the menace of stray cattle, cows and bulls.

In the city there are 8 dairy colonies providing about 9,230 plots. Out of the total number of 9,230 plots, 8,805 plots have been allotted and remaining are unauthorisedly occupied. Some of the plots are being used as shops and factories. Their number is 1840. The number of plots which are lying vacant are 442. Besides the various colonies where dairies have been permitted, there are 2,655 unauthorised dairies which have a bovine population as per below:-

Buffaloes	:	16,889
Cows	:	13,954
		<u>30,743</u>

The dairies have been operating illegally and no licences have been granted by the concerned authorities. The aforesaid factors and developments, especially ever-rising demand for milk due to over population of the metropolis, have caused the problem of stray animals including cattle and cows and their progeny.

The menace of stray cattle is hazardous and causes traffic snarls. It affects the safety of human beings on the road. It has the potential to cause accidents. Besides, it depicts a very dismal picture of the capital. It is also very cruel on the bovine animals as they are let loose on the roads because the owners do not want to feed them. These animals have to fend for themselves. They eat whatever comes in their way including garbage and plastic bags. This affects their health and causes

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CWP 3791/2000

extreme trauma to them. We also find that Gosadans, by and large, have not been able to fulfil the purpose for which they were established. The fact that the animals which were made over to Gosadans have disappeared speaks volumes about their working. The capital city of Delhi should be a show window for the world. The stray cattle on the roads gives a wrong signal. Cattle and other animals which are let loose on the roads by their owners are also responsible for filth, squalor and outbreak of diseases.

The requirement of milk in Delhi at present is more than 15 lac lts. per day (See Master Plan 2000). At present, the supply of milk by Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy is to the tune of 7.30 lac lts. per day. The two agencies are contemplating to increase the supply of milk to 9.75 lac lts. per day. This leads to a substantial shortfall in the supply of milk by Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy. The mismatch between the supply and demand, therefore, brings into picture private parties to fill up the gap resulting in the increase of cattle and bovine animal population in Delhi. This has resulted in the menace of stray cattle.

It appears that the State and its agencies are impervious to the menace of stray cattle. They have not taken any effective steps to prevent the cattle and the bovine animals from taking to the roads. This has affected the quality of life of the citizens. The inaction of the state and its agencies impinges upon the fundamental right of the citizens under Article 21 of the Constitution. Under Article 48 of the Constitution, the State inter alia is required to protect and safeguard the forests and wild life. The State by neglecting to perform its duty in preventing the menace of stray cattle is avoiding implementation of Article 48 of the Constitution. It is the duty of the State to keep in view the directive principles of the State policy which are fundamental in the governance of the country and to apply those principles in making

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CWP 3791/2000

the laws. No effective law has been made to prevent the owners of bovine animals including cattle and cows from being let loose. In the facts and circumstances, therefore, it has become necessary to give directions to the State to control and prevent the menace of stray cattle.

Accordingly, we direct and observe as follows:-

1. The NDMC or the MCD and the Government of NCT of Delhi shall take all possible steps to relocate dairies operating in the municipal zones of Delhi to the outskirts of Delhi.
2. The Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy should take steps to increase their supply of milk to Delhi and, in doing so, an effort should be made to rope in the unorganised sector so that the distribution is done by the aforesaid two agencies after collecting milk from the villages on the periphery of Delhi or outside Delhi. This will discourage private parties from opening dairy farms in the city.
- ✓ 3. The MCD and the NDMC shall employ sufficient number of vehicles to ferry the impounded cattle.
4. The MCD, the NDMC and the police department should work together to stop the menace of stray cattle.
5. Co-ordination Committees shall be constituted in each of the Police Districts. Each committee shall consist of the Deputy Commissioner, MCD of the area / Secretary, NDMC, and the Deputy Commissioner of Police of the concerned District. The two-member Committee shall be responsible for eradicating the menace of stray cattle.

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CWP 3791/2000

6. The MCD/NDMC shall cancel the licence of a dairy in case the cattle and other bovine animals belonging to it stray out of the premises in which the dairy is being run.
7. Cattle and bovine animals located in Delhi shall have a tag number tied around their necks. The tag number must be indicative of the owner to whom the animal belongs so that there is no difficulty in tracing the owner.
8. Prosecutions should be launched under Section 98 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, and Section 289 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 against the owners of any cattle and bovine animals which are found on the streets and roads.
9. The MCD and the NDMC should employ sufficient number of persons to catch stray cattle and bovine animals. Once they are caught they shall be impounded and may be released only on payment of fine of at least Rs.1,000/- each. The vehicles which are used for carrying impounded cattle and bovine animals ought to be fitted with numps in order to obviate the chance of injury to them. The transit and handling of cattle and bovine animals after being impounded shall be in consonance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
10. The electricity generating companies and the electric supply companies shall disconnect electricity to the unauthorised dairies/dairy colonies with immediate effect.

The roads of Delhi should be made free of stray cattle and bovine

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CWP 3791/2000

animals by 1st February, 2003. No cattle or bovine animals shall be permitted on the roads after the aforesaid date. The responsibility to comply with the order will be that of the aforesaid Committees in their respective areas.

In Civil Writ Petition No. 842 of 1997, the allegation is that the Goshalas/Gosadans are being mismanaged. We have earlier noticed that a large number of cattle and bovine animals were handed over to Goshalas/Gosadans, but it was found that only a limited number were available with them. There is also a serious allegation that cattle and bovine animals are not being provided with proper food and the amount which is released for the purpose of providing food to them is being misappropriated. In the circumstances, we are of the opinion that a committee headed by the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, with three other members, namely, Shri Raj Panjwani, Advocate, Ms. Meera Bhatia, Advocate, and Shri Anil Grover, Advocate, should go into the question of mismanagement of Goshalas/Gosadans and submit their report. We order accordingly. The Committee, apart from going into the veracity of the allegations, shall suggest remedial measures to rectify the defects in the functioning of the Goshalas/Gosadans.

With the aforesaid directions and observations, the writ petitions are disposed of. The matter, however, be placed for compliance report by the respondents on January 30, 2003.

ANIL DEV SINGH
Judge

R.S. SODHI
Judge

December 16, 2002.
pcj/ns