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ಜಲಾಪ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Cow Protection - Cow Ordinance

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 19/11/21

## Cow ordinance: Central rules in force for now, state tells High Court

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government on Monday informed the High Court that the draft - Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle (Transportation of cattle) Rules, 2020, had been published in the gazette on January 16.

Advocate General (AG) Prabhuling K Navadgi informed the court that if any person wants to transport cattle under Section 5 of the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance, 2020, Rule 46 to Rule 56 of The Transport

of Animal Rules, 1978 (Central Rules) will be applicable until the state Rules are brought into force.

The AG made this submission since a division bench headed by Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka had sought the state's response on the implementation of the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance 2020 in the absence of the Rules.

During the last hearing, the bench had pointed out that since Rules are not framed, as per Section 5 of the ordinance, a farmer can be arrested under Section 13 even for a bona fide

agricultural activity.

The court on Monday said it will consider prayer for grant of limited interim relief concerning Section 5 read with Section 13 of the ordinance on Wednesday.

In the affidavit filed on Monday, the government said that the cattle population in the state had substantially reduced over the past eight years. The affidavit said while there were 95,16,484 cattle as per 2012 livestock census, the number reduced to 84,69,004 in the 2019 livestock census. The

state said that 2,38,296 cattle are being slaughtered every year, an average of 652 cattle per day.

The PIL, filed by Mohamed Arif Jameel, Bengaluru-based social worker and RTI activist, challenged the ordinance.

According to the petitioner, a free hand has been

given to the police in the ordinance to raid and seize any property on mere suspicion. The ordinance provides for rigorous imprisonment of 3-7 years and fine ranging from Rs

50,000 to Rs 5 lakh for those guilty of slaughtering, smuggling or illegally transporting cattle.

The petitioner said that a complete ban on sale or purchase or resale of cattle would create a huge economic burden on farmers.

The petitioner apprehended that the ordinance could be used to criminalise Muslims, Dalits and other minorities over their choice of religion. There is a possibility of formation of more and more vigilante groups, resulting in incidents of lynching and other criminal activities, the petitioner said.

