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The Hindu

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# State gives undertaking to HC on new Ordinance

Govt. says coercive action will not be initiated for breach till the relevant rules are brought into force

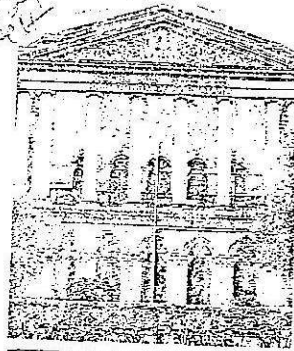
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday gave an undertaking to the High Court of Karnataka that no coercive action will be initiated for transporting cattle in breach of Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance, 2020, till the relevant rules are brought into force based on the draft rules notified recently.

Advocate-General Prabhuling K. Navadgi made submissions in this regard before a Division bench, comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Sachin Shankar Magadam, during the hearing of PIL petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Ordinance promulgated recently.

Also, the A-G assured the Bench that the government would inform the court before enforcing the rules after it were finalised considering the objections and suggestions being received for the draft rules, which were notified on January 18.

The government gave the assurance after the Bench



FROM THE COURT

during earlier hearing asked the clear apprehension about likely prosecution of farmers for transporting cattle within the State even for the exemption granted for bonafide agriculture and animal husbandry purpose as the government is yet to frame rules prescribing manner of such transportation.

Following these assurance, the Bench said that there was no need to pass any interim order at this stage while adjourning hearing till February 26.

While orally pointing out that several legal issues raised in the petitions were

settled by the judgements of the apex court, the Bench said that it may have examine a few provisions of the Ordinance.

## Population reduced

Earlier, the government, in its preliminary statement, has justified the ordinance, has stated that the cattle population over the past eight years has substantially reduced from 95,16,484 in 2012 census (19th livestock census) to 84,69,004 in 2019 (20th live stock census), and that as per the 2019 census 2,38,296 head of cattle are being slaughtered every year and on an average it works out to 652 head of cattle per day.

## Validity questioned

The petitioners, Mohamed Arif Jameel, a social worker from Bengaluru and the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, have questioned the constitutional validity of the Ordinance on various grounds, including the contention that it would adversely affect the farmers as they would be forced to maintain unproductive cattle.