

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No. 330 OF 2001

(Writ Petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India)

In the matter of :

Common Cause, a Registered Society

.....Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

.....Respondents

With

I.A No. /2001 : Application for ex-parte ad-interim orders

PAPER BOOK

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Filed by :

PRANAB KUMAR MULLICK

Advocate for the Petitioner

10 Lawyers' Chambers,

Supreme Court of India,

New Delhi - 110001

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SYNOPSIS

The petitioner is filing the present writ petition to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble Court the following three important issues :

1. Serious environmental pollution arising out of absence of any system for disposal of slurry (comprising of animal blood, entrails, excreta and other waste subsequent to slaughter) either from the slaughterhouses or from places where illegal slaughter is carried out, including roadside vends. There is no treatment whatsoever of the slurry. The animal blood is collected in dirty utensils to some extent, which is then used even for pharmaceutical purposes while the rest of the animal blood is allowed to pass through public drainage into the nearby rivers, ponds, nallas or allowed to seep underground, where it gets mixed with and contaminates ground water and thus becomes a breeding ground for deadly pathogens. The solid wastes are left unattended in open air or disposed off in nearby dustbins. The Bureau of Indian Standards has in its publication IS : 8895-1978 laid down "Guidelines For Handling, Storage and Transport of Slaughter Houses Byproducts", but the same are not followed even in the govt. established slaughter houses. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in its report dated 5.6.1992 has set out the average solid waste generation by slaughter houses in respect of goat, sheep and chicken and also the pollution generated by the influent waste water. The relevant part of the said report has been duly annexed to the present petition. The

petitioner has also pointed out various viral and pathogenic diseases that can break out in epidemic form consequent to the present situation regarding disposal of slurry. The pathogenic invasions include the foot and mouth disease and the Mad Cow disease, both of which have traveled through Europe and Middle East and the former disease is presently sweeping across Rajasthan and Haryana. It is necessary in this situation to enforce the guidelines laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards and also strictly prohibit illegal slaughter outside the limits of sanctioned slaughter houses. Further it is essential that the disposal of slurry be made mandatorily through incinerators/rendering units. All slaughterhouses should be directed to set up incinerators and the units that do not comply should be directed to close down.

2. There is total absence of regular and thorough ante-mortem or post-mortem examination of animals during slaughter. Hence diseased animals are regularly subjected to slaughter. The meat of these animals is contaminated leading to disease amongst those who consume the same while the blood and other wastes and slurry of these animals prepare a bed for breeding and spreading the viruses and pathogens. The Bureau of Indian Standards has vide IS : 1982-1971 set out "Code of Practice for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of meat animals". Needless to say, these guidelines are not followed by the slaughter houses, leave alone the roadside vends. It is necessary that compliance with the

guidelines be made mandatory and strictly enforced. It is also pertinent to point out that a normal practice which has been observed in most slaughter houses is that the stamp showing ante-mortem/post-mortem examination is routinely put without actual examination of the animal. Such practices also need to be stopped immediately.

3. There is wide spread employment of child labour in slaughterhouses. The children work in the midst of pool of blood and carcasses and also witness slaughter of animals. Many a time they also help in such slaughter. At roadside vends, the sight of children slaughtering chicken is very common. All this is in violation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and immunizes the children to violence and gore. It is necessary that there be a clampdown on employment of children in all activities connected with or incidental to slaughter of animals or poultry.

LIST OF DATES

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| 1971 | Bureau of Indian Standards set out vide IS : 1982-1971, "Code of Practice for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Inspection of Meat Animals". The guidelines provided for inspection by a meat inspector, who should be a qualified veterinarian, of all animals before and after slaughter. Proper ante-mortem inspection is essential to ensure that the animals are not affected with any disease or other condition, which may render the flesh |
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unwholesome. The health of the consumer as well as butcher is protected by such examination. Post-mortem examination is essential to detect organs or body parts, which may be diseased and therefore, unfit for human consumption.

1978 Bureau of Indian Standards set out vide IS : 8855-1978, "Guidelines for Handling, Storage and Transport of Slaughter House Byproducts".

5.6.1992 The Central Pollution Control Board published "Comprehensive Industry Document on Slaughter House, Meat and Sea Food Processing". The report at chapter IV has commented on existing wastewater treatment and disposal, solid waste generation and pollution abatement measures. In respect of bovines, the report notes that all except three slaughter houses have no waste water treatment facility and discharged their wastewater without any treatment either on the land or in the severe. This wastewater has a BOD of 1750 mg/l and COD of 3539 mg/l while average solid wastes generated is 275 kg per ton of live weight killed. The major pollutant is blood which constitutes 4-6 % of the live weight killed and BOD concentration of 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 mg/l. Further, discharge of stomach content in wastewater result in substantial increase TSS, BOD

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and COD loads. Similar studies have also been reported in respect of goat, sheep and poultry.

27.10.1995 An advertisement issued in the Times of India by the Ministry of Labour about the plight of child labour at the abattoir.

1999 Report of PeTA's Animal Times giving photographs of children employed in slaughter houses, working amongst blood and carcasses. This is in total violation of the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

27.3.2001 The Economic Times, Mumbai reports the outbreak of foot and mouth disease amongst cattle in Rajasthan and Haryana which has led to Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia banning import of meat from India. It is, however, pertinent to note that the same meat is freely consumed in India and the slurry is disposed off in the open leading to further spread of the disease.

20.5.2001 The Sunday Times of India, Ahmedabad, reported that entire chicken population of Hongkong and Macau was ordered to be destroyed in a drastic attempt to stampout a chicken virus called H5N1 which possibly could affect humans and a different strain of which had caused 6 deaths in Hongkong in 1997. In India however, no checks are conducted to ascertain existence of any

F

disease. The petitioners fear that the present state of affairs is likely to lead to major epidemic and also large scale environmental pollution including pollution of soil and ground water.

25.6.01

HENCE WRIT PETITION FILED.

AMENDED CAUSE TITLE

SECTION PIL (WRIT)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 330 OF 2001
(Under Article 32 of the Constitution of India)

Common Cause, A Registered Society,
A-31, West End,
New Delhi - 110 021.
through its Director,
Shri H.D. Shourie,

.... Petitioner

Versus

1. Union of India,
through Secretary,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Department of Health, Nirman Bhawan,
Maulana Azad Road,
New Delhi - 110 001.
2. Ministry of Agriculture,
(Secretary)
Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110 001.
3. Ministry of Labour,
(Secretary.)
Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi - 110 001.
- *4. The Member Secretary,
Central Pollution Control Board,
CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar,
Shahdara, Delhi - 110 002.

.... Respondent

*Respondent No. 4 has been impleaded as
Party/Respondent in pursuance of Order dated 17.8.2001.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No. 330 OF 2001

IN THE MATTER OF :

A writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India ;

And In the Matter of :

A petition under Article 21 of the Constitution of India being right to live in a pollution free and epidemic free environment ;

And In the Matter of :

Issue of a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ order or direction for mandatory enforcement of standards laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards regarding the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of meat animals and disposal of slurry (animal blood and wastes) in slaughter houses through incinerators and implementation of ban against illegal slaughter ;

And in the Matter of :

Prohibition of entry of children in slaughter houses or at places where slaughter is carried out and implementation of the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 in respect of slaughter houses ;

And In the Matter of :

Common Cause, A Registered Society
A-31, West End,
New Delhi – 110 021,
Through its Director
Shri H.D. Shourie
Petitioner

1. Union of India, through Secretary Versus

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Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Department of Health, Nirman Bhawan,
Maulana Azad Road,
New - Delhi- 110001

2. Ministry of Agriculture, (Secretary)
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi- 110001
3. Ministry of Labour (Secretary)
Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi- 110001 ..Contesting Respondents

To,
The Hon'ble Chief Justice and His Companion Justices of
the Supreme Court of India.

The Humble petition of the
Petitioner abovenamed

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

1. That the petitioner is a registered society which espouses causes in public interest. It has earlier filed several public interest litigation's petitions both in this Hon'ble Court as well as in the High Courts on various social and environmental issues and in several such petitions, this Hon'ble Court and the High Courts have through reported decisions, furthered the cause of social and economic justice.
2. The petitioner is filing the present *Public Interest Litigation* to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble Court three important aspects concerning slaughter houses. Two of them are a very serious source of environmental pollution which, if not prevented immediately, are likely to cause severe pathological invasions

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and epidemics both amongst humans and domestic animals and which are also causing pollution of soil, ground water and air, while the third relates to employment of child labour in slaughterhouses. These three aspects are:

- a. Absence of any system for disposal of slurry (comprising of animal blood, entrails, excreta and other wastes subsequent to slaughter), which is leading to severe pollution of soil and ground water,
- b. absence of any ante-mortem or post-mortem examination of animals which is likely to result in transfer of diseases from animals to men and the slurry from such diseased animals is likely to cause an epidemic of various diseases including foot and mouth disease, BSE (Mad Cow Disease) and others,
- c. employment of child labour in slaughter houses.

All these three aspects directly affect the public at large all over India and require to be dealt with by this Hon'ble Court. The present petition is being filed bona fide in public interest and is not for any private interest whatsoever.

DISPOSAL OF SLURRY SUBSEQUENT TO SLAUGHTER

3. Reports received by the Petitioner from inspection of slaughterhouses in various parts of the country has revealed that there is no proper system of disposal of slurry, which is comprised of animal blood, entrails, excreta and other wastes (subsequent to slaughter). There is no treatment whatsoever of the slurry. The animal blood is collected in dirty utensils to

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some extent, which is at times used for pharmaceutical purposes and the rest of the animal blood is allowed to pass through public drainage into the nearby rivers, ponds, nallas or allowed to seep underground, where it gets mixed with and contaminates the ground water. The solid wastes are left in an open place from where they are collected by Municipality garbage trucks. Birds of prey and stray dogs feast on these animal wastes and drop them at various places in the neighbouring locality. Added to this is the problem of illegal slaughter. Within the cities as well as on the outskirts, illegal slaughter of cattle, goats etc are carried out uninhibitedly and the slurry is left unattended in open air disposed off in the nearby dustbins and the animal blood is allowed to seep into the ground.

4. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in its publication "Comprehensive Industry Document on Slaughter House, Meat and Sea Food Processing" at chapter 4 has commented on existing wastewater treatment and disposal, solid waste generation and pollution abatement measures. In respect of Bovines, it has been stated that only three modern slaughter houses have some waste water treatment facility while all other slaughter houses discharge their waste water without any treatment either into domestic sewer or on land. It is pertinent to note that the wastewater has a BOD of 1750 mg/l and COD of 3539 mg/l. The average solid waste generation from bovine slaughterhouses is 275 Kg per ton of live weight

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killed equivalent to 27.5% of the liveweight of the animal. The CPCB noted that the major pollutant from the slaughtering operation is blood which constitutes 4-6% of the live weight killed of the animal and having BOD concentration of 1,50,000/- to 2,00,000 mg/l. Further, discharge of stomach content in waste water results in substantial increase in TSS, BOD and COD loads.

In respect of goats and sheep, the CPCB noted that majority of all such slaughter houses disposed their untreated waste water either into the municipal sewerage system or on land. The average solid waste generation in respect of goat and sheep slaughterhouses was 170 Kg per ton of live weight killed. In large-scale slaughterhouses, the method of disposal followed was mostly as landfill whereas in small and medium slaughterhouses, it is dumped around the slaughterhouse, which is partly consumed by the scavengers.

In respect of poultry, the slaughterhouses discharged their wastewater on land without any treatment. The influent wastewater had a BOD of 1102 mg/l and COD of 2410 mg/l. The average solid waste generated was 0.12 Kg per head of live weight killed, equivalent to 12% of the live weight of the bird. The method of disposal of solid wastes followed by the slaughterhouses is land fill alongwith municipal garbage. The CPCB further notes that blood constitutes the major source of BOD in all the poultry processing units and that potential raw

waste load from uncontrolled blood sewerage is approximately 7.9 Kg BOD per 1000 chicken slaughtered.

A copy of chapter 4 of comprehensive industry document on slaughterhouse, meat and seafood processing published by Central Pollution Control Board dated 5.6.1992 is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE/P-1**.

5. The Bureau of Indian Standards has in its publication IS : 8895-1978 laid down "Guidelines for Handling, Storage and Transport of Slaughterhouse By-Products." A copy of IS : 8895-1978 being "Guidelines for Handling, Storage and Transport of Slaughterhouse By-Products" dated NIL is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE/P-2**. It is necessary to make the said guidelines laid down in IS : 8895-1978 mandatory to be followed by all slaughter houses.
6. The problem of disposal of slurry can also be gauged from the fact that in the Republic of Cyprus, in 1997, 150 intensive pig units, comprising 4,14,000 pigs generated about 1.4 Million cubic meters of slurry. The disposal of slurry from these pig units was recognized by the government as a serious problem especially regarding the potential contamination of ground and surface waters. It was estimated that aerobic treatment of the said pig slurry would cost CY pounds 2,254,002. In India, however, where every day the total number of animals and birds slaughtered, runs into lakhs, there is no Governmental concern whatsoever as to the disposal of slurry.

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7. The petitioner suggests that one of the ways in which the solid waste generated could be disposed off is through setting up of incinerators/rendering plants. The solid waste generated from all slaughterhouses, should be collected separately and incinerated at an incinerator to be set up by the respondents or by the slaughterhouses. It is imperative that disposal of slurry through incinerators be made mandatory and all units that do not set up such incinerator within a specified time, should be directed to close down. This Hon'ble Court has followed similar practice while directing various industries in Delhi and some other states to set up common effluent treatment plants and closing down industries which did comply with the directions.

8. Simultaneously, it is important that road side vends that slaughter animals and poultry, be closed down so that there is no discharge of waste water into the soil or sewerage system and no disposal of solid wastes into the municipal garbage. The respondents should be directed to take steps in this regard.

9. The petitioner further seems to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble Court the various diseases that may spread as an epidemic in case the untreated animal blood and slurry is allowed to mingle with the general wastes without prior treatment.

10. Foot and Mouth disease is presently threatening to sweep across Europe and has on date also invaded India. It is one of the most contagious of all animal diseases. The said disease affects pig, sheep, cattle and goats, but can be carried by other animals like horses, cats and dogs who do not develop the disease themselves, as well as by humans, on shoes and clothing, car tyres and agricultural tools. In U.K., outbreak of this disease, which causes lesions in the inside of the mouth and on the hoofs, is being tackled on a war footing. Export of all U.K. live stock has been stopped, all hunting has been banned for seven days, infected animals are slaughtered, mass culling of all animals within 3 Kms of the infected area is being resorted to, to create firewalls, vehicles movement and visits to contaminated farms is being restricted and quarantine measures are being undertaken through isolation of susceptible animals. It is pertinent to note that in India the Economic Times, Mumbai dated 27th March, 2001 has reported outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Rajasthan and Haryana which has lead to Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia banning import of meat from India. A typed copy of the Economic Times, Mumbai dated 27th March, 2001 is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE/P-3**. It may be noted that since cattle and goats are being slaughtered in the slaughterhouses without first ascertaining whether they are suffering from foot and mouth disease or not, it is likely that such diseased animals are also being slaughtered with other animals and the

animal blood and slurry is allowed to be left in the open. This is likely to lead to an epidemic of foot and mouth disease in India.

11. Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE), commonly known as the mad cow disease, is a disease of cattle which was first recognized in U.K. in 1986, at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge. This disease has been linked to a fatal brain-wasting malaise in humans called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. In 1996, about 80 people died in U.K. due to this disease. During the last two months, there has been a fresh outbreak of this disease in various parts of Europe including U.K., France and Germany. The disease has also traveled to Dubai through imported meat. The absence of any standards in detecting diseases in animals prior to slaughter and in disposal of slurry after the slaughter raises a very deep apprehension that in case an infected animal is brought for slaughter, it may cause similar deaths in India.
12. The Atlanta based Centre for Disease Control and Prevention collected 15 blood samples from Singapore abattoir workers and of them, 11 tested positive for a new virus similar to the "Hendra Encephalitis Strain". One of the infected worker, subsequently died. This disease can also spread from contact with pigs' slurry.
13. The Sunday Times of India, Ahmedabad dated 20.5.2001 has reported that on 18.5.2001, the Hongkong Government

ordered the immediate slaughter of 1.2 Millions Chickens virtually the territory's entire poultry population – in a drastic attempt to stampout a killer virus (H5N1) that officials fear could eventually effect humans. Similarly in Macau, 50 Miles West of Hongkong, the entire poultry stock of about 20,000 birds were directed to be destroyed after the same virus was detected. It was further reported that in 1997, in Hongkong, the death of 6 people, including a three year old boy, were traced to a different strain of the same chicken virus, called H5N1. About 1.4 million chicken were then killed in a belated effort to head off a potentially far broader/health disaster. The Hongkong Govt., had set aside more than 10 million dollars to compensate those whose livelihood would be affected, including farmers, wholesale and retail operators and truckers. After the cull was completed, the Govt. planned an extensive cleaning and disinfection operation. A copy of the Sunday Times of India, Ahmedabad, dated 20.5.2001 is annexed hereto and marked as ANNEXURE/P-4.

14. Several other pathogens, viruses and other diseases can spread through consumption of infected cattle, goats, sheep and chicken as also through the infected blood and slurry of diseased animals. These are set out hereinbelow:-

A. Diseases Acquired From Cattle :-

1. Actinomyces Pyogenes
2. Anthrax
3. Brucellosis
4. Campylobacteriosis

(*Campylobacter fetus*)
(*Campylobacter jejuni*) p 248

5. Cowpox
6. Cryptosporidiosis
7. Escherichia coli O157:H7
8. European tick-borne encephalitis
9. Foot and mouth disease
10. Giardiasis
11. Leptospirosis
12. Mycobacterium Bovis
13. Pseudocowpox
14. Q-fever
15. Rabies
16. Salmonellosis
17. Slow virus variant (?? Controversial)
18. Streptococcus zooepidemicus
19. Taenia saginata
20. Yersinia enterocolitica

B. Diseases Acquired From Sheep and Goats :-

1. Actinobacillus spp.
2. Anthrax
3. Brucellosis
4. Campylobacteriosis
5. Chlamydia trachomatis (ovine)
6. Cryptosporidiosis
7. European tick-borne encephalitis
8. Francisella tularensis
9. Giardiasis
10. Leptospirosis
11. Louping ill
12. Orf
13. Q-fever
14. Rabies
15. Salmonellosis
16. Yersinia enterocolitica
17. Giardiasis

C. Diseases Acquired From Pigs :-

1. Anthrax
2. Ascaris Suum
3. Botulism
4. Brucella Suis
5. Cryptosporidiosis
6. Entamoeba Polecki
7. Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae
8. Flavobacterium group IIb-like bacteria
9. Influenza
10. Leptospirosis
11. Pasteurella aerogenes
12. Pasteurella multocida
13. Pigbel
14. Rabies
15. Salmonella cholerae-suis
16. Salmonellosis
17. Sarcosporidiosis
18. Scabies
19. Streptococcus dysgalactiae (group L)
20. Streptococcus milleri
21. Streptococcus suis type 2 (group R)
22. Swine vesicular disease
23. Taenia solium
24. Trichinella spiralis
25. Yersinia enterocolitica
26. Yersinia pseudotuberculosis

D. Diseases Acquired From Birds (including Chicken) :-

1. Campylobacteriosis
2. Chlamydia psittaci
3. Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae
4. Newcastle disease virus
5. Pasteurella multocida

6. Histoplasma capsulatum
7. Salmonellosis
8. Yersinia pseudotuberculosis

ABSENCE OF ANTE-MORTEM AND POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF ANIMALS

15. The second problem that arises is the total absence of regular and thorough ante-mortem or post-mortem examination of the animals. Hence, diseased animals are regularly subjected to slaughter and the slurry emanating from such diseased animals is also disposed off in the same manner as aforesaid. Leave alone illegal slaughters, even in the slaughterhouses authorised by the Municipalities, the number of veterinarians per thousand of the animals slaughtered, is abysmally low due to which there is no check whatsoever on the slaughter of diseased animals. The meat of these animals is contaminated leading to disease amongst those who consume the same. Further, the blood and other wastes and slurry of these animals prepare a bed for breeding and spreading the viruses and pathogens capable of causing the diseases and if not incinerated, the said slurry can cause an outbreak of epidemic by infecting humans and animals.
16. The Bureau of Indian Standards has vide IS : 1982-1971 set out "Code of Practise for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Inspection of Meat Animals". In the foreword at para 0.2, it is stated that proper ante-mortem inspection of all animals before slaughter is essential to ensure that they are not affected with any

pp 63-72

disease or other condition which may render the flesh unwholesome. There are some diseases which are communicable from animals to men by contact and, therefore, ante-mortem inspection is also necessary for safeguarding the health of the consumer as well as of the butcher. Post-Mortem inspection is essential to detect carcasses, parts of carcasses and organs which may be diseased and, thereby, rendered unfit for human consumption. The standards prescribe for a meat inspector who should be a qualified veterinarian and lays down the various organs that have to be inspected and also the duties of butchers, slaughter-men, and flayers. Various diseases are set out, which if found to exist in the animal, would render it unfit for human consumption. Needless to say, except for 4 to 5 abattoirs in all of India, at no place is any ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection of meat animals done. A copy of IS : 1982-1971 published by Indian Standards Institution (now Bureau of Indian Standards) dated NIL is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE/P-5**. It is submitted that the guidelines for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of meat animals as set out in IS : 1982-1971 be made mandatory and all slaughter houses that do not follow the said guide lines should be closed down. It also follows that the road side vends that do not follow any guidelines whatsoever should also be closed down.

It is also pertinent to point out that a normal practice which has been observed in most slaughter houses is that stamp showing ante-mortem/post-mortem examination is routinely put

without actual examination of the animal. Such practices also need to be stopped immediately.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILD LABOUR IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

17. While dealing with the environmental pollution caused by slaughterhouses, a third aspect that has come to the notice of the petitioner is that several children are allowed inside the slaughterhouses where they perform various functions including assisting and slaughtering, cleaning the place and removal of the carcasses. This is again a prevalent practice at places where illegal slaughter is carried out, where these children work as helpers to the slaughter and often carry out the entire process themselves. This has a lasting dehumanizing effect on the personality of the children and also immunizes them to violence in later stages of life. In the Times of India dated 27.10.1995, the Ministry of Labour had inserted an advertisement about the plight of child labour at the abattoir. The advertisement stated that the child witnesses life being easily slaughtered. He sees blood and lives amidst violence. But he is a child, his innocence is shaken. He is not old enough to understand life or death. The advertisement also contained statements by the then Prime Minister of India Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and the then Union Labour Minister Shri G. Venkataswamy. This advertisement was published in Winter 1999 edition of PeTA's Animal Times.

However, despite the prohibition in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, of children working in abattoirs, this is a very common occurrence. A copy of certain shocking photographs appearing in the Winter 1999 edition of PeTA's Animal Times show children at the slaughter house working in the midst of a pool of blood carcasses and also witnessing slaughter fo animals. A copy of PeTA's Animal Times (Winter 1999 edition) dated nil is annexed hereto and marked as ANNEXURE P-6

In fact at the roadside chicken stores, children are very commonly found to be slaughtering chicken. It is imperative that this Hon'ble Court direct the respondents to ensure implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 so that there is an absolute ban, properly implemented on entry of children inside slaughter houses and also at various places where illegal slaughter may be carried on :

18. Petitioner has not filed any similar writ petition before this Hon'ble Court or any other High Court.

PRAYER

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to :-

- (a) issue a writ of mandamus or any other writ, order or direction directing the respondents to strictly enforce standards laid down by the Bureau of Indian standards in IS 8895 : 1978 [annexed as ANNEXURE /P-2] regarding the disposal of animal wastes and slurry and IS 1982: 1971 [annexed as ANNEXURE/P-5] in the various slaughterhouses regarding the

ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of meat animals ;
and

- (b) direct that animal slurry and solid wastes consequent upon slaughter of meat animals and poultry be disposed of only through incinerators/rendering plants and all units that slaughter animals or poultry but do not set up incinerators/rendering plants, should be closed down; and
- (b) direct the respondents to implement the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 regarding the entry and employment of children in the various slaughterhouses and also at all other places where slaughter is carried on ; and
- (c) direct the respondents to strictly implement the various Municipal Laws prohibiting illegal slaughter outside the limits of sanctioned slaughterhouses and especially direct closure of all road side vends that slaughter animals and poultry ; and
- (d) direct that all the slurry and waste generated by slaughter houses be incinerated so as to prevent any biological (soil, air or water) pollution and that any slaughter house that does not comply with the directions, be closed down ; and
- (e) costs ; and
- (f) pass such other or further order as this Hon'ble Court so deem fit in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

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AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS PETITIONER IS AS IN DUTY
BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.

DRAWN & FILED BY

PRANAB KUMAR MULLICK
ADVOCATE FOR THE PETITIONER

NEW DELHI
DATED : 25.6.01
DRAWN ON 21.6.01

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No. OF 2001

IN THE MATTER OF :Common Cause, a Registered Society
Pet

Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Ors.
Respondents

Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, H.D. Shourie, S/o Late Mr. S.L. Shourie, aged 89 years,
Director, COMMON CAUSE, A-31, West End, New Delhi – 110 021,
do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows :-

1. That I am the Director of Common Cause, the petitioner society in the above Writ Petition, that I am aware of the facts set out in pages A to F of the Synopsis and List of Dates and at paras 1 to 17 pages 1 to 18 of the writ petition and competent to depose thereon.
2. That the Interim-order application filed with the foregoing writ petition has been prepared by me and I say that the contents thereof are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
3. That the Annexures annexed to the writ petition are true copies of their respective originals.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

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I, the abovenamed deponent do hereby verify at New Delhi this
25th day of June 2001 that the contents of the affidavit foregoing
are true and correct to my knowledge, that no part of it is false and
nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

DEPONENT