

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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**Date:** 7/7/2015

**GAIN Report Number:** IN5085

## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### India - Cattle Slaughter Legislations

**Report Categories:**

Dairy and Products

Livestock and Products

Trade Policy Monitoring

Exporter Guide

Policy and Program Announcements

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**Report Highlights:**

All agricultural policy, including cattle slaughter, is a state subject. Many Indian states and union territories address cattle slaughter and the interstate movement and trade of live cattle and animal products. However, this legislation is often dissimilar, including the legal definitions for calves, bulls, and bullocks.

## Executive Summary:

All agricultural policy, including cattle slaughter, is a state subject. Many Indian states and union territories address cattle slaughter and the interstate movement and trade of live cattle and animal products. However, this legislation is often dissimilar, including the legal definitions for calves, bulls, and bullocks. Most state legislation prohibits cattle slaughter for all ages, including for both female and male calves.

## General Information:

According to the 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census of 2012, which is published by the Ministry of Agriculture, India has a cattle (*Bos taurus or Bos indicus*) and water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) population of 190.9 million and 108.7 million, respectively, which is the largest in the world. Although India is a large water buffalo meat (*carabeef*) exporter, beef cannot be exported as cattle slaughter is banned in most Indian states due to religious sensitivities.

Article 48 in the Indian Constitution suggests that states should consider preventing cattle slaughter, but provides no specific enforceable laws or directives on the subject. All agricultural policy, including cattle slaughter, is governed individually by each Indian state. Many Indian states and union territories address cattle slaughter and the interstate movement and trade of live cattle and animal products (see Table 1). However, because there are no central or federal laws for cattle slaughter, most states and union territories have developed dissimilar legislation, including creating different legal definitions for calves, bulls, and bullocks.

Most state legislation prohibits cattle slaughter for all ages, including for both female and male calves. For example, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Delhi, a union territory, all prohibit cattle slaughter, including bulls and bullocks of all ages. However, Assam and West Bengal permit cattle slaughter if the animal is at least 14 years of age and receives a 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate from the local state authorities. Kerala allows for cattle slaughter for animals that are unfit for work, cannot breed, or are permanently injured and over 10 years old. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Lakshadweep, a union territory, have not enacted any regulations or laws that address or specifically prohibit cattle slaughter. Most states that prohibit cattle slaughter can arrest an alleged perpetrator without a warrant; Delhi, Goa, Puducherry, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh can also deny bail.

The matrix below describes various state and union territory policies for cattle slaughter, which were compiled from Ministry of Agriculture data. More detailed information can be found at the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries' website: <http://dahd.nic.in/dahd/default.aspx>.

Table 1: India: State / Union Territory Legislation on Cow Slaughter

	<b>Cow (include calf) Slaughter</b>	<b>Bull and bullock slaughter permitted</b>	<b>Export for slaughter</b>	<b>Export where slaughter is not banned</b>	<b>Export for any purpose</b>	<b>Transport for slaughter</b>	<b>Sale / transport of beef or beef products</b>	<b>Possession of beef</b>
Andhra Pradesh	Prohibited	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar	Prohibited	Animals over certain age or has become unfit for work or breeding.	-	-	Prohibited	-	-	-
Delhi	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	Prohibited	-	Prohibited
Goa, Daman and Diu	Prohibited (Permitted in case animals suffering pain or contagious disease or for medical research)	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	-	Prohibited	Prohibited
Haryana	Prohibited	Prohibit	Prohibit	Prohibit	-	-	Prohibit	-

	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	Prohibited	-
Himachal Pradesh	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	-	-	Prohibited
Jharkhand	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	Prohibited	Prohibited
Karnataka	Prohibited	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	Prohibited	-	-
Kerala	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Maharashtra	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	Prohibited	Prohibited
Odisha	Prohibited	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puducherry	Prohibited	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	-	Prohibited	-
Punjab	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	Prohibited	-
Rajasthan	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	Prohibited	Prohibited
Tamilnadu	Prohibited	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Uttar Pradesh	Prohibited	Prohibited	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	Allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India / State Animal Husbandry Departments