

# If buffaloes can be slaughtered, why not cows, asks K'taka mantri

## Congress Mulls Tweaking Law On Slaughter

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The Congress government in Karnataka is contemplating amending the stringent Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle (Amendment) Bill, 2020, passed in the state legislature by the previous BJP government in 2021.

Hinting that it would be amended, and arguing that it would be done in the larger interest of farmers, K Venkatesh, animal husbandry and veterinary sciences minister, asked: "If buffaloes can be slaughtered, why not cows?"

In an attempt to justify his reasoning, the minister said farmers were struggling to maintain aged cattle and dispose of the dead. He claimed to have himself faced some difficulty in disposing of a cow that died at his farmhouse recently.

The erstwhile BJP government of BS Yediyurappa had



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introduced two bills in 2010 and 2012, amending a 1964 Act. The bills were withdrawn in 2014 by the then Congress government led by Siddaramaiah.

Unlike the 1964 Act, which allowed slaughter of bulls, bullocks and buffaloes, the new law bans the slaughter of "cow, calf of a cow and bull and bullocks of all ages and a buffalo below the age of 13 years". The 1964 law allowed the slaughter of bullocks, buffaloes, male or female, if they were certified by a competent authority to be above the age of 12 years, incapacitated for breeding or deemed sick. That law had banned the killing of any cow or calf of a she-buffalo.

In February 2021, amid up-

roarious scenes with opposition members tearing up copies of the bill, the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by voice vote in the legislative council.

In the amended bill, BJP had enlarged the definition of cattle, made punishment harsher and raised the age limit of cattle for slaughter. The 2020 bill also gave powers to police officers to search premises and seize cattle and materials used or intended to be used to commit illegal cattle slaughter, with imprisonment from three to seven years and a penalty between Rs 50,000 and Rs 5 lakh for the first offence.