

BMC permits sacrifice of 150 water buffaloes per day for Eid at Deonar

Mumbai: BMC, in a fresh circular pursuant to a Bombay high court direction on Friday, permitted religious sacrifice of 150 water buffaloes per day from August 1-3 for Eid between 6am-6pm only at Deonar abattoir.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sarang Kotwal on Friday, while hearing a PIL, asked special civic counsel Anil Sakhare how many can be sacrificed and directed BMC to issue a circular before the day ends on "regulatory steps

and procedures" to be followed while making the sacrifice for Bakra-Eid festival from this Saturday.

The circular calls for strict compliance of social distancing and other norms under Covid-19 pandemic guidelines, including compulsory masks, and ensure use of hand sanitizers.

The circular cites its earlier June 26 one to show that slaughtering was restricted to 150 daily at the abattoir due to Covid-19 guidelines and this would continue till fur-

ther orders.

Inran Qureshi, vice-president of All-India Jamiat Inran Qureshi, said it was "shocking that BMC put a restriction of 150 cattle despite us mentioning 5,000 in our PIL.. We will move the high court for contempt of court on Saturday."

The PIL by Al-Quraish Human Welfare Association and others sought judicial intervention after pointing to a July 25 order where the court in a matter had restricted all slaughter to take place at the

abattoir. Mohammad Asif Qureshi and Haji Kudratullah Qureshi, through lawyer A A Siddiqui, said since the abattoir was closed, without a special order, sacrificing water buffaloes there would not be possible.

Usually during Bakra-Eid around 15,000 sacrifices take place at the abattoir, but the pandemic and resultant financial strain on families would mean less than 40% this Eid, said the petition.

— Swati Deshpande & S Ahmed Ali