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Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

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Why in News

The **Supreme Court (SC)** has **asked the Centre to either withdraw or amend rules notified in 2017** for confiscating animals of traders and transporters during the pendency of trial in cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Key Points

- **About the 2017 Rules:**
 - The **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017** have been framed under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.
 - The Rules **allow a Magistrate to forfeit the cattle of an owner facing trial under the Act.**
 - The animals are then **sent to infirmaries, animal shelters, etc.**
 - The authorities **can further give such animals for “adoption”.**
- **SC’s Observations:**
 - The Rules are plainly **contrary to Section 29 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act**, under which **only a person convicted of cruelty can lose his animal.**
 - It **asked the government to either change the rule or face a stay** from the court.

- **About the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:**

- The legislative intent of the Act is to “**prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals**”.
- The **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Act.
- This Act **provides for punishment for causing unnecessary cruelty and suffering to animals**. The Act **defines animals and different forms of animals**.
- **Discusses different forms of cruelty, exceptions, and killing of a suffering animal** in case any cruelty has been committed against it, so as to relieve it from further suffering.
- Provides the **guidelines relating to experimentation on animals** for scientific purposes.
- The Act enshrines the provisions relating to the **exhibition of the performing animals**, and offences committed against the performing animals.
- This Act provides for the **limitation period of 3 months** beyond which no prosecution shall lie for any offences under this Act.

Source: IE