

Title: Need to ban export of meat.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Cattle are vital for production of food and fodder and formed an inseparable part of the rural economy. But in the early 90s, the Government declared that meat exports was a thrust area offering incentives and subsidies for the purpose and since then exports had gone up by leaps and bounds. In 2000-2001, 2,68,000 tonnes of meat were exported and it is claimed that it is only four per cent of the total meat production in the country. Roughly nine crore animals are being slaughtered every year.

The Planning Commission, in the process of formulating the Tenth Plan, had made known its intention of doubling the earning from meat exports from the present level of Rs. 1,000 crore and a sub-group in the Union Agriculture Ministry has been appointed for the purpose. I urge upon the Government to discourage export of meat as the myopic policy is not only encouraging mindless slaughter of lakhs of dumb creatures, but also proving to be very harmful to the rural economy and rural sector.