

Honourable Shri Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister of India  
152 South Block, Raisina Hill  
New Delhi 110 011

24 April 2017

Honourable Prime Minister,

I am writing to you from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India on behalf of our nearly 1 million members and supporters to ask that India take a cue from the German environment minister who banned meat from being served at her ministry's meetings and events because meat production is one of the leading causes of climate change. I hope you'll agree that India should also set a good example where environmental conservation is concerned by eliminating animal-derived foods from the menus of all government or government-sponsored meetings and functions.

Climate change is occurring 10 to 100 times faster than in the past, and India is no stranger to its negative effects. We're suffering from severe droughts that have pushed farmers to suicide, heatwaves affecting agricultural production, floods, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and other disastrous problems linked to climate change. We cannot afford to allow this trend to continue.

India is home to more than 280 million cows and 200 million other ruminant animals such as goats and buffaloes, bred predominantly to be used for meat or dairy production. According to satellite data from our space programme, these animals transfer almost 12 million tonnes of methane – which traps 25 times as much heat as carbon dioxide does – into the atmosphere via flatulence every year. In fact, a widely publicised report published by the Worldwatch Institute in 2009 estimated that 51 per cent of worldwide greenhouse-gas emissions may be attributable to agriculture, specifically to businesses that raise cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, camels, and pigs for food.

Meat production is also the world's leading consumer of freshwater: according to a 2015 report in the *Stanford Environmental Law Journal*, it uses an average of 55 trillion gallons per year. What's more, it's responsible for more water pollution than all other industrial sources *combined*.

Raising animals for food also gobbles up land and food resources. According to Global Footprint Network, it takes 14 times as much biologically productive land to produce 1 tonne of beef as it does to produce 1 tonne of grain. And while India has the world's largest population of undernourished people – more than 194 million – a staggering 60 per cent of the world's grain supply is used to feed farmed animals. It takes up to 10 kilograms of grain to produce just 1 kilogram of meat, but 925 million people around the world don't have enough to eat.

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

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A 2010 report by the United Nations Environment Programme's international panel of sustainable resource management points out that as the global population surges towards a predicted 9.1 billion people by 2050, the current rate of consumption of meat and dairy foods is unsustainable. The report further said that a global shift towards a vegan lifestyle is vital in order to save the world from hunger, fuel poverty, and the worst effects of climate change.

Animal welfare is also a growing concern because of today's industrialised meat and dairy industries. Citizens are concerned that many chickens' throats are cut while they're still conscious, that fish typically suffocate or are cut open while they're still alive, that pigs are often stabbed in the heart as they scream in pain, and that calves are usually torn away from their mothers within hours of birth. At the slaughterhouse, animals are often killed in full view of one another and dismembered while they're still conscious.

Eating animals also wreaks havoc on human health. The consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy foods has been conclusively linked to an increased risk of suffering from heart disease, strokes, diabetes, obesity, and cancer.

As a vegetarian, you're a role model of compassionate, healthy, and environmentally friendly eating. It's time for the *entire* Indian government to follow your lead and protect the environment by eliminating animal-derived foods from its meals.

**Will you please ensure that animal-derived foods are not served at government functions?**

We respectfully request to hear from you regarding this important matter. I can be reached at [NikunjS@petaindia.org](mailto:NikunjS@petaindia.org).

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,



Nikunj Sharma  
Lead – Public Policy

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