

URGENT AND IMPORTANT

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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Re: Request for a ban on all inhumane and illegal methods and practices currently being used for killing unwanted and male baby chicks by the poultry hatcheries in the state of Uttar Pradesh

Dear Sir,

I am writing from PETA India, requesting you to immediately issue directions to all poultry hatcheries in your state to ban inhumane, cruel, and illegal methods of killing unwanted and male baby chicks, as the same are in clear violation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, and to further direct these hatcheries to adopt humane method for killing, as recommended by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and the Law Commission of India.

As you may know, millions of male baby chicks and chicks who are deformed, sick, or otherwise considered "useless" are killed via cruel and inhumane methods, which include drowning them, tossing them into fires, crushing or suffocating them by dumping them into large drums or trucks, transporting them to fish farms and tossing them into ponds to be eaten by fish, and tossing them into large grinders while they're still alive. Some baby chicks are also dyed with harmful chemicals and distributed or sold in villages to children, which leads to baby chicks enduring a painful death in a couple of days. Photographs taken from certain hatcheries in India depicting the cruelty towards the rejected baby chicks are annexed as **Annexure 1**.

Adopting such cruel methods of killing unwanted and male baby chicks is a clear contravention of various provisions of Section 11 the PCA Act and is punishable under the law. A copy of Section 11 of the Act is annexed as **Annexure 2**.

Since **Uttar Pradesh** is one of the top egg-producing states in the nation (producing **26050.01** lakhs in 2018–2019), as per the report on Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2019 released by the Ministries of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, it is imperative that the hatcheries in your state be directed immediately to ban the use of illegal and cruel practices for killing unwanted and male chicks and instead adopt legal and humane methods, as recommended by the AWBI and the Law Commission of India. A copy of the relevant section of the report on Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2019 is annexed as **Annexure 3**.

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA Australia
- PETA Foundation (UK)
- PETA France
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA US

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In July 2017, the Law Commission of India released its 269th report titled "Transportation and House-Keeping of Egg-Laying Hens (Layers) and Broiler Chickens", wherein the inhumane killing of male baby chicks in the poultry industry was acknowledged. Rule 16 of the draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Egg Laying Hens) Rules, 2017, specifies that "The hatcheries shall use animal euthanasia to euthanise male chicks using a combinations of inert gases by the method of controlled atmospheric killing". A copy of the report is annexed as **Annexure 4**.

The AWBI in the year 2012 and 2014 had issued two advisories concerning culling birds for disease control purposes, which stated that the board supports the use of nitrogen and inert gases p for culling animals. Copies of the AWBI advisories dated 9.03.2012 and 27.11.2014 are annexed as **Annexures 5** and **6**, respectively.

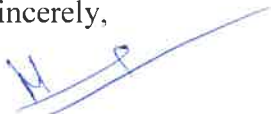
In 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India issued a draft notification dated 29th April, 2019 being Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Egg Laying Hens) Rules, 2019 ("Draft Egg Laying Hens Rules"). Rule 12 mandates that hatcheries must use one of the procedures for the euthanasia of male chicks prescribed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines. A copy of the rules is annexed as **Annexure 7**.

Article 7.6.14 of Chapter 7.6 of the guidelines issued by the OIE prescribes use of nitrogen and inert gases for killing poultry which is also recommended by the Law Commission of India. The said humane method ought to be adopted to euthanise unwanted and male baby chicks in the state. Relevant extract of the OIE guidelines is annexed as **Annexure 8**.

In light of this information, I urge you to issue directions immediately to all poultry hatcheries in your state to ban inhumane, cruel, and illegal methods of killing unwanted and male baby chicks and to direct hatcheries to adopt the humane method for killing prescribed under Article 7.6.14 of Chapter 7.6 of the OIE guidelines, which is also recommended by the AWBI and the Law Commission of India.

I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I can be reached at ManilalV@petaindia.com or on +91 9910817382.

Sincerely,



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Chief Executive Officer
PETA India

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Principal Secretary
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