

Shri Rohit Pawar,
Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar)
Member of Legislative Assembly, Maharashtra
601, Subhadra Bagh, Pimpri,
Baramati, Pune 413102

4 April 2024

Subject: Cruelty to a crab during your press conference in Pune

Dear Shri Pawar ji:

I am writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and our more than two million members and supporters to express our deep concern about your cruel treatment of a tied crab who was struggling and trying to escape as you suspended the animal by a string to make a point during a press conference in Pune on 2 April 2024. We have received numerous complaints about this incident, which is documented in this viral video (<https://rb.gy/r8cn8o>)

Research shows that crabs are intelligent individuals who can feel pain and suffer. They explore their surroundings, have good memories, and communicate with each other. By inflicting pain and suffering on this crab, you have violated Section 11(1)(a) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; Article 51(A)(g) of the Constitution of India; the Maharashtra Model Code of Conduct; an order issued by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer dated 24 March 2014 prohibiting the use of animals for election campaigning (**Annexure 1**); the Election Commission of India Manual on Model Code of Conduct; and a letter issued by the Election Commission of India on 19 September 2012 (**Annexure 2**).

Society looks to public figures like you to set an example of kindness and ethics. We hope you will use your position to advocate and legislate for stronger policies to protect animals and never harm another animal or use one for a political purpose again.

We urge you to give custody of the crab that you used for the press conference to PETA India so that we can provide the animal with veterinary care and rehabilitate back into nature. May we please know how we can collect the crab? I can be reached at 7303787382 or at ShauryaA@petaindia.org.

Thank you for your time and your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Shaurya Agrawal
Advocacy Associate

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS
INDIA

PETA India
PO Box 28260
Juhu, Mumbai
Maharashtra 400049
022 40727382

Info@petaindia.org
PETAIndia.com

Entities:

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

Registered Office:
F-110, First Floor, Jagdamba Tower
Plot No 13, Community Centre
Preet Vihar, New Delhi
Delhi 110092

CIN: U74899DL2000NPL103217

cc: Shri Sharadchandra Govind Pawar
National President, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) and
Member of Rajya Sabha
6, Janpath Rd
New Delhi 110001
pawars@sansad.nic.in

Shri Rajiv Kumar
Chief Election Commissioner
Nirvachan Sadan
Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001
cec@eci.gov.in

Shri Urvinder Pal Singh Madan
State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra
State Election Commission
First Floor, New Administrative Building,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk, Madam Cama Road
Mumbai-400032
sec.mh@gov.in

Smt Minal Kalaskar
District Election Officer
District Collector Office
Opposite Sassoon Hospital
Station Road, Pune-411001
dydoe.pune-mh@gov.in