



14 June, 2022

Shri Parshottam Rupala
Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Government of India

Subject: Request to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and use of gestation and farrowing crates in pig farms, in compliance with The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

Honourable Parshottam Ji,

I hope you are well. I am writing to bring your attention to a matter of serious concern—the use of gestation and farrowing crates in Indian pig farms. Gestation crates are metal enclosures that confine female pigs used for breeding during pregnancy. These crates cramp pigs so tightly that they cannot even turn around, let alone do anything that is natural to them. Farrowing crates, where the pigs bear their litters, are just as restrictive. Abundant scientific literature disfavours use of both. Yet my friends at Mercy For Animals India Foundation have informed me that most of our country's pig farms are using or fast-transitioning to crates for pigs.

A pig's pregnancy is just under four months. Imagine spending four whole months in a barren enclosure barely larger than yourself. For several years, pigs endure repeated impregnation and extreme confinement in gestation crates that ends only when the animals are transferred to farrowing crates. Unable to move, they suffer muscle and bone degeneration. Many display abnormal behaviours, such as constantly biting their crate's metal bars. Due to the duration of their confinement and the severe physical restrictions crates impose, crated pigs are among the animals who suffer most in industrial agribusiness.

Enclosed is a copy of the detailed letter recently sent to you by my friends at Mercy For Animals India Foundation. It elaborates on the problems associated with gestation and farrowing crates.

The Government of India has already taken many steps to help animals in the country, and I look forward to your unmatched leadership in prioritising this matter.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached through my friend Nikunj Sharma at NikunjS@mercyforanimals.org or +91 9013434611. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


John Abraham