Cattle Ban Notification Withdrawn

Why in news?

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The government withdrew its notification banning the sale of cattle for slaughter in cattle markets.

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What was the notification about?

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- The Centre had amended the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act in May 2017.
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- It laid out conditions under which cattle could be sold in the markets.
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- According to the notification cattle can be sold only after sellers formally stated that the animals had not been “brought to the market for sale for slaughter”.
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- Buyers would also have had to verify whether they are agriculturalists.
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- Buyers should declare that they would not sell the animals for 6 months from the date of purchase.
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- The notification had defined cattle as a bovine animal “including bulls, bullocks, cows, buffalos, steers, heifers and calves as well as camels.
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Why was the notification rolled back?

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- The government justified that the notification was a follow up to the SC’s directive to the government to form an inter-ministerial committee to recommend ways of preventing cattle smuggling.

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- But the notification had led to a furore among animal traders and farmers as it impacted their business.
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- Farmers said that they cannot directly access slaughterhouses to sell redundant cattle and this notification denies them the access to the market.
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- The curbs were also seen as a double blow given the continuing attacks by cow vigilantes.
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- The Madras High Court stayed the order.
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- Subsequently the Supreme Court extended the stay to the whole country.
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- Following this the government suggested that it was about to come up with amendments.
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- But now it has withdrawn it.
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Source: The Hindu

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