

JALLIKATTU

WHAT ACTUALLY IS BULL EMBRACING?

A bull left out from the "vaadi vasal" (a gate) will have to be caught (by the hump) by those on ground for a specific distance (30 feet approx).

Purpose - A strong and intellectual bull would escape from everyone and run away. Such bulls will be used for mating and thus produce a healthy cow/bull.

When does it happen? It occurs only on the Pongal (Thanks giving harvesting festival) between the second and third week of January and this event is held only on one day of the festival.

Cattles are worshiped as god for helping farmers in various aspects.

Reason behind ban - The bulls are tortured with iron rods and beaten, given alcohol.

Real fact - All said cruelty was there and an ordinance was passed by TN govt. In 2009 to monitor Jallikattu. Each bull will be examined by a group of vet. docs and monitored by a govt. official. Those in the ground would be examined by the doc for fitness and won't be allowed if drunk. Moreover, during the event if the bull is found hurt by a human then immediately the bull is rescued and treated by the vet. Doctors and the foul maker will be disqualified from the event.



What happens if banned - These native breeds are not used for farming and other activities. Their only job is to participate in Jallikattu and produce healthy calf. Since the sport is banned, farmers do not have a reason to raise them and cannot afford to maintain them. Hence they are sold to slaughter houses.

How does Jallikattu help in the process? The bulls used for mating need to be virile. During the mating season (which is typically after Pongal), these bulls need to be at the top of their game i.e. they must be secreting all the necessary male hormones, experience adrenaline rush and also a fast beating heart. This is where Jallikattu comes in picture. The time when the bull is released from the Vaadi Vaasal (the small narrow gate from which the bulls are released) and till the time it manages to reach the other end (if it is not subdued) causes it to experience a great adrenaline rush which then boosts its testosterone levels and also keeps its heart beating at a rate faster than normal levels. This increases their virility and this is one of the most fundamental of all necessities for selective breeding. Can this be done without an activity like Jallikattu? Possibly but then the number of matings a bull can accomplish decreases significantly. Jallikattu helps in increasing this which is of utmost importance to a farmer's wellbeing. Also because artificial insemination is not adapted for native breeds, the banning of an event like



Farmers during Pongal festival.



Kangeyam Bull

Jallikattu will lead to these native breeds getting destroyed which would then force our hands to rely on artificial insemination the very process which the farmers shunned to begin with.

There were over 130 native breeds in southern India and now we are left with only 37!!!

Reason for the decline – In places where jallikattu are not held, the male calves (which are essentially useless unless there is demand for tasks like ploughing) are slaughtered. But in places where Jallikattu is held, these calves are held on to for the purpose of showcasing them and establishing their superiority.

This is just not a tradition, it's a way of preserving our native breeds!!!



Bulls that are sent to slaughter house.

- After getting Jallikattu banned went on their own way. But these bulls do not have a way to be preserved and eventually land into a slaughter house.

For me it's a multibillion dollar business, wipe out the traditional animals and sell their stock here. Let's do a reality check before coming to any conclusion.