

CPCB guidelines for disposal of carcasses of livestock

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In news

CPCB indicates unsafe disposal of cattle

Objectives of Carcass disposal plant

- To prevent bird-hit hazards to civil and defence aircrafts
- To prevent environmental pollution and spread of livestock diseases
- To reduce better quality hides and skins through timely recovery, better handling and transport
- Mandatory under prevention and control of infectious and contagious disease in the animal act, 2009 to dispose-off the fallen animals/ carcasses properly
- To provide an opportunity for employment to the poorest of the poor engaged in carcass collection, flaying and by-product processing.

Key findings

As per Central Pollution Control Board, about 30% of India's dead cattle and 40% of goats weren't flayed and nearly nine million bovine hides were "lost annually due to non-recovery

Environmental Hazards and accidents due to carcasses

- Carcasses, especially those that result from the animal slaughter, are an 'environmental hazard' and are partly to blame for 'bird-hit' hazards at airports
- The guidelines also state that there were nearly 25 million head of cattle including buffalo that died of natural causes.
- However, there wasn't any organised system of disposal

and it had become a major environmental hazard

- While the hide was mostly removed for leather, the **carcasses were frequently left to “putrefy in the open” and attracted “vultures and dogs polluting the environment and creating environmental hazards.** This open dumping attracted birds which can cause air accidents

Key provisions of draft guidelines

- It requires carcasses of livestock to be disposed off in incinerators and municipal authorities must ensure that such facilities are set up and made available.
- As per the guidelines, the other methods of disposal were incineration and ‘deep burial’.
- Flaying of cattle could yield more commercial opportunities, for instance, ‘meat-meal, bone-meat and technical fat’.
- The process, however, would require setting up more ‘carcass utilisation plants’ where the parts of the animal could be used to make tallow, nutritional supplements and fertilizer.
- It also stated that State PCBs would have to ensure that carcasses were being disposed of properly