

## Crackdown on Meat Processing Plants

### Why in news?

\n\n

UP ruling party's election manifesto has promised to **shut down all illegal slaughterhouses and place curbs on all mechanical abattoirs** in the state.

\n\n

### What does it mean?

\n\n

\n

- There is no confusion in the first part. All things illegal, by definition, have to be shut down.

\n

- But, the ambiguity lies in the part concerning mechanical, presumably legal slaughterhouses.

\n

- While there can be no plausible objection to the regulation of any industry, whether that is the stated intention here cannot be said for sure.

\n

\n\n

### How valid is the claim about declining livestock population?

\n\n

\n

- The Sankalp Patra only makes a claim about UP's livestock wealth **suffering depletion**, while linking this to illegal smuggling and slaughtering of animals.

\n

- But, data from successive Livestock Censuses show a consistent increase in UP's total buffalo population: from 189.96 lakh in 1997 to 306.25 lakh in 2012.

\n

- On the other hand, the state's cattle numbers have fallen from 200.16 lakh

in 1997 to 195.57 lakh in 2012.

\n

- What is interesting, however, is a significant jump in the female cattle population.

\n

\n\n

## **What can we infer?**

\n\n

\n

- First, there's little evidence of a reduction in UP's livestock wealth.

\n

- It has to do with buffalo milk fetching a better price due to its **higher fat content**.

\n

- Secondly, among both cattle and buffaloes, there is a particularly sharp increase in female animals.

\n

- The increased female bovine population also explains why **UP's milk production has not suffered despite the boom in buffalo meat exports**.

\n

- The state's milk output has gone up too, according to the Union Agriculture Ministry.

\n

- Finally, the existence of slaughterhouses and meat processing plants, means farmers find it easier to dispose of unproductive and old buffaloes, as opposed to cattle.

\n

- Either way, it is the farmer, not the slaughterhouse owners or buffalo meat exporters, who should be held responsible for the perceived loss of cattle wealth in UP.

\n

- If farmers have no mechanism to replace old animals, they may not find livestock rearing and milk production viable in the first place.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Indian Express**

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*