

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2029
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD DECEMBER, 2022

STRAY CATTLE MENACE

2029 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that stray cattle are a menace to the life and livelihood of the people;
- (b) if so, details of such incidents reported during last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to deal with the situation?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)**

(a) to (c) No such information is maintained by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in Government of India. However, as per the Article 246(3) of Constitution of India, preservation, protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases; veterinary training and practice are under State list for which the States have exclusive powers to make laws.

As per Article 243(W) of Constitution of India, the local bodies are responsible for cattle pounds and pinjrapole. Therefore, the State may also endow panchayats to establish and run Cattle Pounds (Kanji Houses)/ Gaushala Shelters (community assets) to keep stray cattle. Many States have established Gaushalas and Shelter houses for stray cattle and provide for feeding of those animals.

In view of the above mentioned constitutional provisions, the State is empowered to take appropriate action on stray animals. Further, Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) vide letter dated 12th July, 2018 has issued advisory on stray animals to all the State Governments/ Union Territories. AWBI encourages organizations which keep stray animals by providing grants-in-aid for taking care of the animals within the budget provided by Government of India. Many State Governments also have taken steps to promote gaushalas, panjrapoles and kanji houses by providing the shelter grants, feeding and veterinary care to keep homeless cattle in such shelter.

Further, in order to utilize the unproductive animals, dry dairy is promoted. AWBI is also driving awareness programmes for appropriate utilization of cattle dung and cattle urine to make different products so as to make cow shelters/gaushalas self-sustainable thereby ensuring those old and unproductive animals do not become stray. AWBI is also implementing schemes like Regular Grants to provide feed and fodder to animals sheltered in various Animal Welfare Organizations including Gaushalas and also providing Grants to build shelter for stray animals.

Further, unproductive female animals can be used as surrogate mothers for production of calves through Embryo Transfer Technology. Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog has been established to advise the Government on conservation of cattle.

Often, male cattle are not useful to the farmers and therefore they are left unattended as strays. In order to tackle the problem, the Central Government is implementing sex sorting semen technology under Rashtriya Gokul Mission for artificial insemination of cattle. This technology will help to produce female calves only so that the number of male cattle will reduce over time.
