

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 794

TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023

ROAMING CATTLE

794. SHRIMATI MAHUA MOITRA:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are a lot of complaints about loose cattle roaming around;
- (b) if so, the reasons for loose cattle roaming and creating damage to farmer's fields;
- (c) the details of steps/recommendations of the Government to deal with such issue; and
- (d) the number of cattles which are actually in gaushalas?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes Sir. There are complaints from many citizens and in various print and electronic media regarding increased number of loose cattle roaming around.
- (b) Often, male and unproductive cattle which are not useful to the farmers are left unattended as strays. Many States have imposed ban on cattle slaughtering and movement of cattle from outside the states. Therefore, the farmers are not able to resell the animals. These are the main reasons for increase in number of stray cattle on the roads.
- (c) 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 should 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, 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 that old and unproductive animal do not become stray.

In order to tackle the problem, in the long term, the Central Government is implementing sex sorted semen technology under Rashtriya Gokul Mission for artificial insemination of cattle. This technology will help produce female calves only so that the number of male cattle will reduce over the time.

Also the technology is available to produce Bio CNG from cow dung. Efforts are being made to promote such technology. Many gaushalas and organizations are producing products from cow dung. Cow dung is also useful for cremation and it will reduce the use of tree wood and help in tree conservation.

Further, Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has issued advisory on stray animals to all State Governments/ Union Territories (vide its letter dated 12th July, 2018). 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.

(d) Information is not maintained.