

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2023
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2023

OLD AND STRAY ANIMALS

2023: **SHRI NARESH BANSAL:**

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are a large number of old animals which are burden for their owners;
- (b) if so, the district-wise, State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to take care of such stray animals and reduce the number of old and stray animals and reduce the burden of the owners thereby?

ANSWER

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

(a)to(c): No, Sir. 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) has issued advisory on stray animals to all State Governments/ Union Territories vide its letter dated 12 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.

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 animals do not leave as stray.

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 produce female calves only so that the number of male cattle will reduce over time.
