

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 85
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024

VETERINARY SERVICES AND STATUS OF ANIMAL VACCINATION

85. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state?

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of deadly zoonotic diseases have increased across the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to enhance the infrastructure and access to treatment facilities for animals;
- (c) whether Government has taken initiatives to boost the number of technical personnel in veterinary units;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, If not, whether Government proposes to provide incentives to promote recruitment of technical personnel especially in rural areas; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase awareness about the importance of veterinary vaccines, especially in rural areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a) No Sir, there are no reports of increase in deadly zoonotic diseases across the country. However, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India is fully alert about the deadly zoonotic diseases in the country and National Action Plans and guidelines on diseases like Avian Influenza, NIPAH and Glanders have been issued to States/UTs on matters of key areas like early warning on diseases, outbreak preparedness, response, surveillance and research & development on priority diseases.
- (b) Animal Husbandry is a state subject and enhancement of infrastructure and access to treatment facilities for animals is the primarily in the domain of the State Governments. However, the DAHD provides financial assistance to States/UTs for prophylactic vaccination against economical and zoonotic diseases, capacity building of Veterinary services, disease surveillance and strengthening of veterinary infrastructure under the Scheme, Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme

(LHDCP), with the aim of reducing risk to animal health. Financial assistance is also provided to the States/UTs for delivery of veterinary healthcare services through Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) through a toll free number (1962) at farmers' doorsteps, under the component of Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD) of the LH&DCP. The services include disease diagnosis, treatment, vaccination, minor surgical interventions, audio-visual aids and extension services.

(c) and (d) As Animal Husbandry is a state subject therefore taking initiatives to boost the number of technical personnel in veterinary units and to provide incentives to promote recruitment of technical personnel including in rural areas is under the purview of the State Governments. However, Central Government through Veterinary Council of India, a statutory body established under Indian Veterinary Council Act 1984 supports "Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE)" conducted by the State Veterinary Councils (SVCs) for retraining of in-service veterinarians to enhance skills of the practicing veterinarians in the country.

(e) DAHD financially supports the States/UTs for undertaking trainings, awareness campaigns about the importance of veterinary vaccines, under the component Assistance to States for Control of Animal diseases (ASCAD) as per the demand. The Central Government also supports states/UTs under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) by providing vaccines to the States/UTs for vaccination against Foot & Mouth disease (FMD), Brucellosis, PPR and CSF and financial and technical support for serosurveillance and seromonitoring of the diseases including awareness programme. Funds are also released to Prasar Bharti (Doordarshan & All India Radio) for publicity, awareness of vaccination programme in State/UTs.
