

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING  
RAJYA SABHA  
ADMITTED UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.95  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

**ASSISTANCE TO LIVESTOCK SECTOR**

95. DR. SANTANU SEN:

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

- a) whether Government has taken any steps to address the challenges and issues faced by the livestock sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath;
- b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- c) whether any special assistance or relief has been provided or proposed to be provided to the livestock farmers, especially those belonging to marginalized or vulnerable groups under the National Livestock Mission (NLM) or any other scheme; and
- d) if so, the details thereof ?

**ANSWER**

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

a) &b): Yes Sir. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India during 2019, suggested all the states/UTs for inclusion of veterinary services as essential service and issued the advisory to all stake holders associated with veterinary and animal health sector in the wake of COVID-19 situation. States/UTs were also advised to establish close collaboration between animal husbandry, wildlife and public health authorities for effective response to SARS-CoV-2. DAHD also provided financial support through the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LH&DCP) Scheme which is implemented across the country with the aim to reduce risk to animal health by prophylactic vaccination against economical and zoonotic diseases, capacity building of Veterinary services, disease surveillance and strengthening veterinary infrastructure. Additionally, under the component of Establishment and Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD) of the LH&DC Scheme financial assistance is 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 which include disease diagnosis, treatment, vaccination, minor surgical interventions, audio-visual aids and extension services. Further, as a part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat package, DAHD launched "Campaign for Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) for providing working capital loan to dairy farmers of Milk Cooperatives and Milk Producer Companies" from June 2020 and December 2020.

c) & d): DAHD under the scheme Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) and through the Prime Minister's Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs), MSMEs and Section 8 Companies to establish different projects with 3% interest subvention on term loans availed. Additionally, under, National Livestock Mission (NLM), the scheme Entrepreneur Development Programme (EDP) aims towards employment generation, entrepreneurship development by providing 50% capital subsidy for establishment of rural poultry, sheep/goat and pig breeding farms and fodder value addition unit. Further, DAHD under the scheme "Supporting State Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations" (SDC&FPO) is providing 2% interest subvention on working capital loan to Dairy Cooperatives and Milk Producer's Companies and additional 2% interest subvention for prompt payment. Under National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) the beneficiaries are also supported to increase sales of milk and milk products, upgrading dairy processing facilities, marketing infrastructure and enhancing the capacity of producer-owned institutions. Dairy processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) scheme of the DAHD under Atma Nirbhar Bharat also envisages provision of interest subvention of upto 2.5% p.a. for loan on eligible components by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)/ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) including provision of loan directly to the Dairy Cooperatives and Milk Producer Companies by NABARD and NDDB.

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