

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1816
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2024

IMPROVING PRODUCTION OF DONKEY, SHEEP, AND GOAT MILK

1816 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) the measures that have been implemented by the Central Government, in partnership with the State Governments, to improve the production of donkey, sheep and goat milk and to increase the populations of these milk-producing animals;
- (b) whether there is any Government data available on the annual production of donkey, sheep and goat milk;
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry, in collaboration with the State Governments, to establish a proper marketing network for donkey, sheep and goat milk; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to permit the import of donkey, sheep and goat milk for customers in India, if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

- (a) The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India is implementing National Livestock Mission (NLM) Scheme which aims towards increase in per animal productivity targeting increased production of donkey, sheep and goat milk as well as to enhance the populations of these animals. The scheme was modified on 21st February 2024 wherein breed-upgradation of Donkey was included.

Under this Scheme, the DAHD, Government of India is supporting the entrepreneurs in the states for breed improvement in sheep, goat and donkey apart from other non bovine animals by providing the incentivization to the Individual, Farmer Producer Organizations, Farmer Cooperatives, Joint Liability Groups, Self Help Groups, Section 8 companies for entrepreneurship development. The DAHD, Government of India is also providing funds to the states for genetic improvement of sheep, Goat and Donkey under the scheme National Livestock Mission.

The Scheme National Livestock Mission also aims to incentivize the Institutes, Universities, Organizations carrying out research and development related to sheep, goat & donkey. Under the Livestock Health & Disease Control Programme, the DAHD, Government of India supports the states by providing funds for carrying out vaccination and deworming for prevention of animal diseases in sheep, goat and donkey.

Indian Council of Agriculture Research- Central Institute for Research on Goats (ICAR CIRG) has developed collaboration with State Animal Husbandry Department of Uttar

Pradesh in 2024 on sustainable genetic improvement and conservation project for Jamunapari goat breed. Nearly 33 crore Rupees has approved by Department of Animal Husbandry Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for the period 2024-25 to 2028-29. ICAR CIRG has also developed MoU with State Animal Husbandry Department of Uttar Pradesh for providing training to goat farmers on scientific goat farming for improving the performance and economics. These centres of All India Coordinated research project on goat are running in 19 States, with the objective of conservation, genetic improvement and increasing meat and milk production. One Farmer Producer Organization on goat is running at Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

To boost the production of sheep milk, Indian Council of Agriculture Research- Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar established Patanwadi sheep flock at institute and conducting research for genetic improvement of Patanwadi sheep as dairy sheep through selective breeding. In order to increase availability of sheep milk for human consumption, technologies like milk replacer (Mamnprash) was developed for suckling lambs.

Indian Council of Agriculture Research- National Research Centre on equines (ICAR-NRCE), Hisar is imparting trainings to stakeholders for entrepreneurship development in donkey farming and conducting research on value addition to donkey milk and developing donkey milk products. ICAR-NRCE is running a network project on Animal Genetic Resources for the Conservation of Halari donkeys. In addition a project on establishing a Model Precision Donkey Farming and Exploration of Therapeutic and Cosmetic Values of Donkey Milk to Enhance Farmers' Income is also being run at ICAR-NRCE.

- (b) Yes, the DAHD, Government of India collects the data on the annual production of Goat milk however no such data is available for sheep and donkey milk. Presently, as per Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, Goat milk contributes 3.56% of the country's total milk production.
- (c) The donkey, sheep and Goat milk has been highlighted in the recent years. The DAHD, Government of India has initiated steps, in collaboration with the State Governments and the ICAR Institutes, to establish a proper marketing network for goat milk. In this regard, a National Goat Conclave was organized by this DAHD, Government of India in Goat sector. The National Goat Fair and Agro-Industrial Exhibition held at ICAR-CIRG Complex in November 2024. Also, a stakeholder consultation was held on 19-11-2024 in Agra wherein the State Governments, ICAR institute, Non Governmental Organizations, Milk Federations have brainstormed on the marketing strategy for the Goat Sector. The DAHD, Government of India has also proposed similar programmes for camel and sheep sector in December 2024 and February 2025. Further, Some private sector enterprises have developed marketing channels.
- (d) The import of sheep and goat milk products for customers in India is already permitted subject to fulfilment of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Further, no proposal has been received for import of donkey milk products
